

THE TRAIL GUIDE

THE OFFICIAL GUIDE TO ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL • 2011 EDITION



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When you're planning a road trip with your golfing buddies, the first question after deciding where to stay is usually, "What else is there to do?"

Because the RTJ Trail stretches the length of Alabama, you're in luck. The 26 courses are convenient to lots of watering holes, great restaurants and points of interest worth going out of your way to see.

If you begin play at Hampton Cove outside Huntsville, it's worth a swing west on I-565 to the U.S. Space & Rocket Center, the largest space museum in the world. Have dinner on the town's courthouse square at Cotton Row. Its celebrity chef has appeared frequently on NBC's "Today" show. There are excellent barbecue restaurants in Anniston and Gadsden after you've played the courses at Silver Lakes.

While staying in Florence at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa, have a drink in Swampers Bar & Grill, named for local studio musicians who backed up the Rolling Stones, Cher, Paul Simon and countless others. The full story is told at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tuscumbia.

Stay at the Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa outside Birmingham to play its sprawling course and those at nearby Oxmoor Valley. Afternoon cocktails begin when the bagpiper performs. Don't miss dining in Brock's at the resort. If you go into Birmingham, dine at Highlands Bar & Grill, a James Beard Award winner. *GQ Magazine* picked a Highland Avenue neighborhood bar named The Garage as number two in the country "worth flying for." The city's role in American history is showcased at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. Feel your pulse quicken at the world's largest collection of motorcycles at the Barber Motorsports Park on I-20 near Leeds.

Sports Illustrated picked the college town of Auburn as the nation's best city for golf. The Grand National courses in adjacent Opelika are why. Drive from the Marriott to the famed Toomer's Corner across from the campus for fresh lemonade. See quarterback Cam Newton's Heisman Trophy at the sports museum inside the basketball arena.

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center is the hub of downtown Montgomery's entertainment district. A century ago the cocktail hour began with the ring of a bell at an historic tavern on this site. Your group can be a part of the daily renewal of the tradition inside the Renaissance bar. Numerous restaurants and museums are nearby. To see the Alabama State Capitol, a Greek Revival landmark, drive up Dexter Avenue. Reach the world-class Alabama Shakespeare Festival off I-85 at exit 6.

The Trail's Montgomery courses are north in Prattville where an additional Marriott hotel and conference center offer alternative accommodations.

Before or after playing the challenging Cambrian Ridge courses outside Greenville, dine at the family-owned Bates Turkey restaurant. Each Thanksgiving a live turkey from here is pardoned by the governor in Montgomery. South of Greenville is Monroeville, the hometown of author Harper Lee that inspired "To Kill a Mockingbird." The old courthouse attracts visitors from around the world.

Golfers playing Mobile's Magnolia Grove courses have the choice of staying at the legendary Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa, which dates from 1852, or the more contemporary Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel a block away. Both Renaissance hotels are close to the Dauphin Street entertainment district, seafood restaurants and museums that spotlight city history, science and the original Mardi Gras celebration. (Two Mobile men moved to New Orleans after the Civil War and introduced the Fat Tuesday celebration there.) Just down the street, a 12-foot Moon Pie counts down to the New Year from atop an RSA-owned office building.

When you golf at the Grand Hotel Resort on Mobile Bay, you'll understand why *Travel + Leisure*, *Southern Living*, *Zagat* and *AAA* fall in love with the Grand year after year. The love affair first began in 1847. Because the resort was pressed into service by Confederates during the Civil War, the boom of cannon fire announces the cocktail hour each afternoon. Surrounded by lush azaleas and shaded by century-old live oaks and Spanish moss, the resort will keep you busy with horseback riding, swimming, tennis, boating and leisurely walks along Mobile Bay.



The Alabama Tourism Department received **FOUR NATIONAL MARKETING AWARDS** for its **YEAR OF ALABAMA ARTS** and separate **YEAR OF ALABAMA FOOD** campaigns. 2011 celebrates the state's musical heritage.



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Golf landscape photography throughout by Michael Clemmer

ON THE COVER: Hole #8 on the Crossings Course at Magnolia Grove in Mobile.

NATIONAL PUBLICATIONS PRAISE

THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL & RESORTS

FROM *GOLF DIGEST* TO *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT* TO *TRAVEL + LEISURE*, THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL AND ITS RESORT COLLECTION HAVE RECEIVED PRAISE FROM SOME OF THE COUNTRY'S TOP PUBLICATIONS.

"We focus every day on enhancing our guests' experience on the golf courses and in our hotels," said

Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. "The RTJ Golf Trail offers a unique blend of great golf, luxurious accommodations and world-class amenities in picturesque settings."



» GRAND HOTEL NAMED TOP GOLF RESORT

Conde Nast Traveler 2010

Conde Nast Traveler ranked the Grand Hotel #1 in the South for golf staff and service, and #7 overall among Southern golf resorts, ahead of Sea Island, Hilton Head, The Homestead and Beau Rivage. The publication also gave the Grand Hotel high marks for golf course design, access and location.

» GRAND HOTEL NAMED TOP 50 RESORTS IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

Travel + Leisure 2010

Travel + Leisure ranked the Grand Hotel #31 on their list of the top 50 resorts in the United States and Canada. The magazine cited the resort's "great value" and ranked it ahead of such legends as Greenbrier, The Broadmoor and a number of Ritz-Carlton and Disney resorts.

» SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS HONORS GRAND HOTEL WITH PINNACLE AWARD

2010

Awarding the Grand Hotel its Pinnacle Award, *Successful Meetings* noted "Southern hospitality, exceptional service and world class amenities create the perfect recipe for great meetings at this historic resort."

» BEST OF THE SOUTH AWARDS FROM MEETINGS SOUTH FOR ROSS BRIDGE AND GRAND HOTEL

2010

Both Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa in Birmingham and the Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa in Point Clear were honored with "Best of the South" awards from *Meetings South* magazine.

» FIFTH RTJ TRAIL HOTEL/RESORT EARNS FOUR DIAMOND RANKING AAA

2010

The Renaissance Montgomery joins four other Resort Collection hotels as AAA Four Diamond properties in Alabama: Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa; Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa; Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa; and the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa. Five of the six hotels with Four Diamond Awards in Alabama are part of the RTJ Golf Trail's Resort Collection. Additionally, the Grand Dining Room at the Grand Hotel and the Trellis Room at the Battle House have been named Four Diamond restaurants.

» BATTLE HOUSE NAMED "ONE OF THE TOP 500 HOTELS IN THE WORLD"

Travel + Leisure 2009

The Battle House was named one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure* magazine in its January 2009 issue. The Battle House was the only hotel in Alabama featured in this high-profile list this year. Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa in Birmingham was on the 2008 list.

» NUMBER ONE VALUE IN THE COUNTRY FOR GOLF

Golf Digest 2008

Golf Digest, in partnership with the Travel Industry Association of America, recently announced the findings of their 2008 Travel & Destination Study and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail came out on top for value. The RTJ Golf Trail also ranked in #8 for golf quality.

Above: The Lakewood Golf Club in Point Clear, AL., is now available for public access.



Opposite: Hole #7 on the Valley Course at Oxmoor Valley in Birmingham;
Aerial map of Grand National in Auburn/Opelika

Dr. David G. Bronner is one of the most influential movers and shakers in the golf business. As CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, he controls the pension fund of 329,000 Alabamians, and it was his brainchild to invest a small portion (albeit, over \$150 million) of the fund to build the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, that spreads the length and breadth of the state. When Bronner speaks, people listen. He is flamboyant, yet very secure in what he has done and continues to do.

» THE MAKING OF THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

BY IAN THOMPSON

He grew up in Minnesota and has fond memories of golf in his childhood. "My mother Marge liked to play golf and she would take me along when I was eight or nine. We played in Austin (Mn.) at Ramsey, the public course there," Bronner said. "As a teenager I got more into other sports, but came back to golf in college, particularly in law school at (the University of) Alabama. Golf has always been in my blood."

He got his law degree and Ph.D. in Administration from the University of Alabama too, where he would go on to teach in the graduate schools of business, education and law until coming to the RSA.

WHY A GOLF TRAIL?

"The genesis was two things: to combat some of the negative publicity about the state and golf in the state. It wasn't just in the sports pages, but the business pages too," he said. "And second, a study showing that 90 percent of corporate leaders played golf."

The story of how the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. came to be involved is a good one. "As the idea crystallized, we knew we needed someone big to help with the designs, with the concept," he said.

The time frame was the early 90s. The Trail subsequently began in 1992 with the opening of sites in Mobile (Magnolia Grove) and Birmingham (Oxmoor Valley), with nine more to follow. Bronner wrote the same form letter to five well known course designers. In the letter he outlined some of the scope of the project, including having 54-hole sites. He didn't know who or what he was specifically looking for to begin with, he said. Two never responded, one sent a form letter saying he wasn't interested, and one wrote him back inferring it would never work. 'Trent' as Bronner always referred to Jones Sr. was the only one to pick up the phone and call.

Skeptical at first, he called initially to see if Bronner was really serious. "I told him, of course I was serious...I wouldn't have written the letter if I wasn't...we hit it off and the Trail was off and running." The words Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail do kind of roll off the tongue.

SO, WHICH IS BRONNER'S FAVORITE RTJ TRAIL COURSE?

"That's a tough one; it's like saying who is your favorite child? I like Grand National (both courses) in Opelika; Oxmoor Valley (Ridge) in Birmingham and the Senator (Course) at Capitol Hill in Prattville. All for various reasons" he said.

And he's far from isolated from the Trail in an ivory tower in some far off locale. Far from it in fact, as his office is in the RSA headquarters building in downtown Montgomery and he can be at Capitol Hill in 10 minutes and Cambrian Ridge in Greenville in less than 40 minutes. He carries a nine handicap and might just drop in unannounced at a Trail site.

He plays almost every Saturday or Sunday, often at Capitol Hill in Prattville. "It helps take the stress off of me. I know enough about the game to be dangerous and love not worrying about anything else while I'm on the course."

MATH...TRAIL STYLE

There simply is no other golf project in the country with the scope of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. Here's some of the math: 11 locations, 26 courses, 468 holes, over 100 miles of courses. From Huntsville in the north to Mobile in the south to all points in-between, the Trail has changed the golf landscape of not just Alabama, but much farther afield.


But don't just take my word for it...

"A trip to the Trail is worth every mile and minute on the road...the finest public courses in the country." *The Atlanta Constitution*

"...the American golfer's equivalent of Disney World." *Golf Magazine*

Yes, Bronner was a true visionary when he took an idea of huge dimensions and made it reality. Some may have scoffed and said it would never work, but they are far from laughing now. Especially those (unnamed) designers who turned down Bronner point blank when he touted his idea to them. ■

Ian Thompson is the Editor of GolfSouth Magazine, based in Birmingham, and writes a weekly golf column for The Birmingham News, the state's largest paper.



Alabama's

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

PROVIDES A TRUE TEST

WE ARE STANDING ON THE FIRST TEE OF THE JUDGE COURSE AT CAPITOL HILL, AND WE ARE FRIGHTENED OUT OF OUR FOOTJOYS. THAT HAPPENS A LOT ON ALABAMA'S ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL. BY JAMES ACHENBACH

PRATTVILLE, Ala.—From the back tees, we face 415 yards of terror, starting with an intimidating 200-foot drop to a fairway that looks about as wide as a garden path and is guarded by water on the right and something resembling a swamp on the left.

Head pro Will Fisher assures us the fairway “is much wider than it looks,” but I’m not buying it. The danger here is real and enormous—a foreshadowing of what is to come.

Before you get some headstrong notion that you’re going to plow through each and every one of the Judge’s 7,794 yards like Alabama tailback Mark Ingram on his way to winning the Heisman Trophy, consider this: The course has three watery, all-carry par 3s that tip out at 229, 231 and 256 yards. You’ll be scared straight to the forward tees, and no one will think less of you.

The Alabama Golf Trail, as it is commonly called, was built by the people—it was funded by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, whose members are retired teachers and state employees—for the people. It’s accessible both in location—the 11 Trail stops typically are convenient to major highways—and in cost: Green fees range from \$45 to \$64 at 22 of the 26 courses (not including a \$16 cart fee).

It’s readily playable for average players, provided they pick the right tees. The first thing visitors notice is the muscular nature of the Trail. Land for the Trail was donated, apparently in portions as generous as a Southern barbecue. Two courses—Ross Bridge in Hoover and Fighting Joe in Florence—stretch to more than 8,000 yards, and eight other courses play more than 7,400. ...»

Left: From the tips, Ross Bridge measures 8,191 yards making it the fourth longest golf course in the world.





"I've had people who insist on playing (the back tees), and they can't even reach the fairway," says Jason Vaughn, head professional at The Shoals in Florence. "Some of those carries are 275 or 280 yards to get to the fairway."

Even the Trail's seven par-3 layouts—four 18-holers and three nine-holers—defy their moniker "Short Courses." At Silver Lakes in Gadsden, the back-tee yardages are 232, 192, 225, 236, 199, 254, 186, 211 and 212. Elsewhere, you'll find a handful of "short" holes that stretch to more than 250 yards.

If you're bringing plenty of game to Alabama, try this rota: play Fighting Joe, the Judge, Ross Bridge and the Links Course at Grand National in Opelika. If you break 300 over those 72 holes, you should quit your day job and send in your application for PGA Tour Q-School. My goal was more modest. I hoped to break 80 in each round. I failed.

"This is God's country, son," says Gary Fuller, mayor of Opelika, home to Grand National. "If you thought He played all the time at Pebble Beach, you were wrong. He plays here, although His handicap went up when He started hanging out in Alabama."

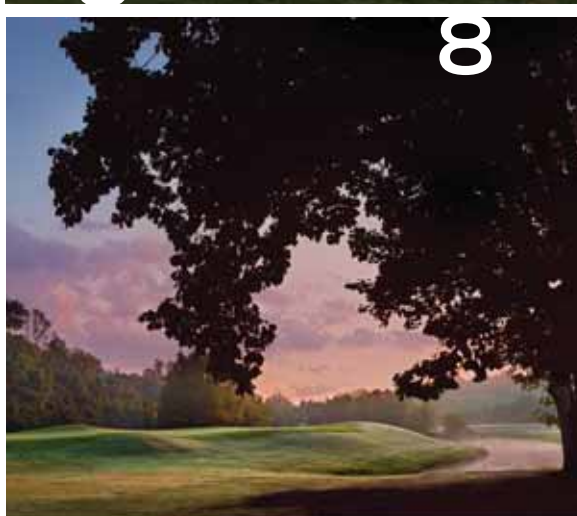
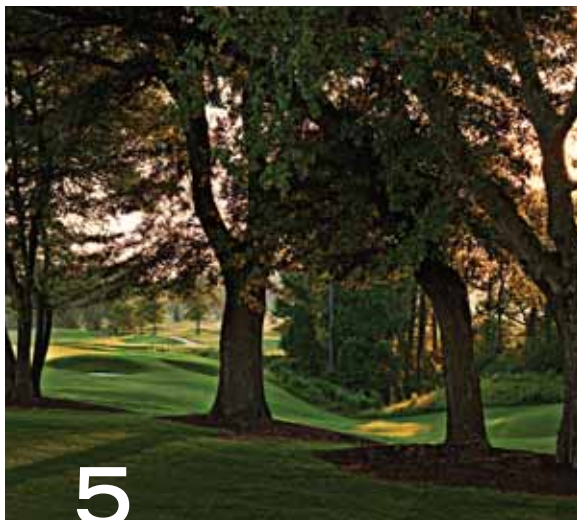
None of this, however, is meant to suggest that all of the Trail courses are as big and ornery as the Crimson Tide's defense. Various Trail sites have hosted the LPGA, Champions and Nationwide tours and the NCAA Championship, but they're plenty accommodating to the humble masses who are happy to break 90.

Consider 72-year-old Thomas St. Pierre of Manahawkin, N.J., who recently finished playing every course on the Trail—twice. He got a Trail Passport, the visitor's discount card, and traveled through Alabama on a north-to-south route, a distance of some 400 miles, then turned around and headed back to the north.

"When I first told my friends I was going to Alabama to play golf, they looked at me like I was drunk," St. Pierre said. "Now they want to go with me."

More than 530,000 rounds were played on Trail courses in 2009, and more than half of those came from out-of-staters such as St. Pierre. The Trail has become one of the best marketing tools for a state not usually found on the "A" list of tourist destinations. Since the Trail debuted in 1992, Alabama tourism revenues have grown from less than \$2 billion annually to more than \$9 billion. At some point this year, the Trail is expected to record its 10 millionth round.

I did my part, playing every hole on the Trail during a golf-immersion trip in November. What struck me, as a Trail first-timer, was not just the girth of the courses, but the variety. (One gripe: That can't be said of the clubhouses, which are as mundane as the courses are memorable. There are two basic clubhouse designs, so there is a "Groundhog Day" experience as you travel from one Trail stop to the next.)



The Appalachian Mountains, which cut diagonally from the northeast into the center of the state, create some theatrical settings. The elevated tees at Silver Lakes in Gadsden provide stunning views of the Appalachian foothills, and at Birmingham's Oxmoor Valley, a 54-hole complex set on former U.S. Steel mining land, 150-foot elevation changes are not uncommon.

Just down the road from Oxmoor Valley at Ross Bridge, a Champions Tour site, the ninth and 18th greens at Ross Bridge are framed by an old gristmill and a waterfall that drops 80 feet.

But for sheer drama, it's hard to top the panorama from the 18th hole of Fighting Joe, situated on a bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. It's an odd finishing hole, being a par 3, but the spectacle as you walk off the 18th green will leave you wanting more. ■

James Achenbach is the associate editor of GolfWeek.

THE 10 LONGEST COURSES ON THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL

- 1 » **ROSS BRIDGE** Hoover: 8,191 yards
- 2 » **THE SHOALS (FIGHTING JOE)** Florence: 8,092 yards
- 3 » **THE SHOALS (SCHOOLMASTER)** Florence: 7,971 yards
- 4 » **CAPITOL HILL (JUDGE)** Prattville: 7,794 yards
- 5 » **CAPITOL HILL (SENATOR)** Prattville: 7,726 yards
- 6 » **HIGHLAND OAKS (HIGHLANDS 9/MARSHWOOD 9)** Dothan: 7,704 yards
- 7 » **SILVER LAKES (HEARTBREAKER 9/BACKBREAKER 9)** Anniston: 7,673 yards
- 8 » **HAMPTON COVE (RIVER)** Huntsville: 7,668 yards
- 9 » **LAKEWOOD (AZALEA)** Point Clear: 7,504 yards
- 10 » **CAMBRIAN RIDGE (SHERLING 9/CANYON 9)** Greenville: 7,427 yards

HOPE *for the* Warriors » »

Having served in Iraq while their families waited back home, the holidays are often rough for the military. For a group of wounded war heroes, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail helped create great holiday memories in an unexpected location – Prattville, Alabama.

In 2009, a group of wounded service members and their families traveled from around the country to enjoy a holiday getaway in Prattville. Instead of staying in traditional military barracks, they enjoyed the comforts of the Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel. These highly mobile warriors soon took on a different challenge, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Dr. David Bronner, CEO of Retirement Systems Alabama and founder of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, invited the wounded warriors down to enjoy some well-deserved “R&R.” “These warriors have put their lives on the line to protect our freedom,” stated Dr. David G. Bronner. “We are honored to welcome them and their families to Alabama and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.”

The guests stayed in the 10,000 sq. ft. presidential cottage adjacent to the Capitol Hill courses. They enjoyed several rounds of golf, including many with their host, Dr. Bronner. In addition to the Judge and Legislator,

the wounded warriors played the Senator course where the top LPGA players compete each October in the Navistar LPGA Classic.

Upon arrival at the Marriott, the children of the service members were delighted to find presents for them underneath the Christmas tree, all beautifully decorated and donated. The ladies discovered their own packages—spa packages that is—for the nearby Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center, part of the RTJ Spa Trail. ■

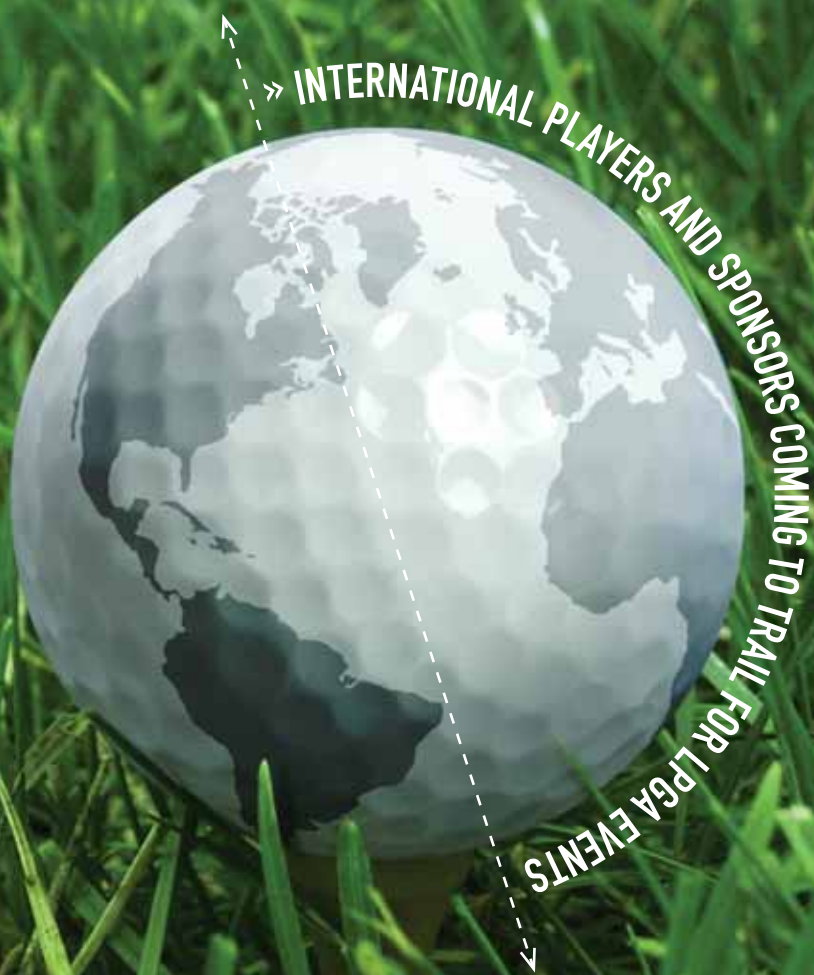
Hope For The Warriors™, a national nonprofit organization that assists wounded service members and their families, appreciates those that have joined in their mission to ensure that the sacrifices of the wounded warriors are never forgotten. To learn more about Hope For The Warriors™ and the programs they support, please visit www.hopeforthewarriors.org.

Opposite:

Dr. David G. Bronner
watches Pete
Richert tee off;
© David Robertson,
Jr. Photography

A man with a prosthetic leg is captured in the middle of a golf swing on a green field. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, dark shorts, a blue baseball cap, and glasses. His prosthetic leg is silver and black. To his left, another man in a dark jacket and cap watches him. In the background, there are two flags on poles, one of which is the American flag, and a white golf cart parked near some trees under a clear blue sky.

WOUNDED SERVICE MEMBERS RECEIVE SPECIAL HOLIDAY IN ALABAMA



GLOBAL

AVNET LPGA CLASSIC, APRIL 27–MAY 1, 2011 » NAVISTAR LPGA CLASSIC, OCTOBER 5–9, 2011

GOLF

In May, Se Ri Pak of South Korea won the 2010 Bell Micro LPGA Classic in Mobile. Five months later, Australia's Katherine Hull won the Navistar LPGA Classic in Prattville. The top golfers come to the Trail each year for the two LPGA tournaments with players coming from more than 25 countries.

This year, the international influence will increase even more with Avnet, Inc. replacing Bell Micro as the title sponsor for the Mobile tournament. Avnet acquired Bell Micro in 2010. Avnet is a Fortune 500 company serving customers in more than 70 countries worldwide. Navistar also has a strong international presence and several Alabama connections. Many of Navistar's global clients have visited their tournament over the past four years and toured their engine plant in Huntsville.

The Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) players will be spending two weeks on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in 2011. After a massive Crossings course redesign, then the acquisition of Bell Micro, the Avnet LPGA Classic will be held on Mobile's Magnolia Grove from April 27 to May 1, 2011.

The Navistar LPGA Classic will return to Prattville from October 5 to 9, 2011 on the Senator course at Capitol Hill.

Spring will be an ideal time to showcase the Crossings course, said John Cannon, president of SunBelt Golf, which oversees the RTJ Golf Trail. "The course has had even more time to mature, and we are looking forward to seeing how reigning champion Se Ri Pak and the other LPGA players will perform on the Crossings course. For players, sponsors and fans, the new date after Easter should be ideal. With spring weather, bountiful seafood and blooming azaleas, Mobile is spectacular in the spring and we look forward to welcoming Avnet as a new sponsor." ...»



Above: Se Ri Pak won the Bell Micro PGA Classic after a three-way playoff.

BELL MICRO PGA CLASSIC »

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Magnolia Grove » Crossings » Mobile, Alabama
FINAL NOTES May 16, 2010

Se Ri Pak, -13
 Brittany Lincicome, -13

LPGA AND WORLD GOLF HALLS OF FAME MEMBER Se Ri Pak captured her 25th LPGA victory by winning a three-way playoff against Brittany Lincicome and Suzann Pettersen. Pak, who won on the Magnolia Grove, Crossings Course in 2001 and 2002, when it played host to the LPGA Tournament of Champions, made a birdie on the third playoff hole to secure the win. Pak's last win came at the 2007 Jamie Farr Owens Corning Classic Presented by Kroger. She has won five major championships, the 1998 Louise Suggs Rookie of the Year award, the 2003 Vare Trophy and the 2006 Heather Farr Player Award.

THE BELL MICRO PGA CLASSIC FINISHED in an exciting three-way play-off between LPGA and World Golf Halls of Fame member Se Ri Pak, three-time winner Brittany Lincicome and Rolex Rankings No. 4 and six-time winner Suzann Pettersen. The event was shortened to 54 holes due to inclement weather. The first playoff hole was tied with pars on the demanding par-4 18th hole on the Robert Trent Jones, Magnolia Grove, Crossings Course. Suzann Pettersen made a bogey the second time around, while Pak and Lincicome saved pars. Pak drilled a

"The LPGA tournament in Mobile promises to be an exciting event — and Avnet looks forward to being a part of it," says Ed Smith, president of Avnet Electronics Marketing Americas. "This is also a great opportunity to share the ladies professional golf tradition with our key customers and suppliers."

For the fifth year, the Navistar LPGA Classic will return to Prattville in 2011 following the largest crowds and television viewership in the tournament's history. With appearances by Paula Creamer, Natalie Gulbis, Cristie Kerr, Ai Miyazato and the teenage golfing sensation Alexis Thompson, the 2010 tournament generated international excitement and exposure. The October 5 to 9 schedule minimizes collegiate football conflicts and should help draw even larger crowds in 2011. More than 30,000 golf fans attended the 2010 event.

"The Navistar LPGA Classic has been a great success for us," said Dan Ustian, chairman, president and CEO of Navistar International Corporation. "It has given us an opportunity to strengthen our brand awareness, give back to a community where we do business and deepen relationships with our key customers, dealers, suppliers and business partners."

"Navistar has been a great partner for us for three years now," said Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama. "We are extremely proud that this international company has an Alabama presence with its diesel engine assembly plant in Huntsville, and that we have the pleasure of working with Dan and his team again next year. We look forward to welcoming Avnet as a sponsor and continuing the momentum created in Mobile." ■

Tickets are already on sale for both events. To learn more about the tournaments, visit www.navistarlpgaclassic.com and www.avnetlpgaclassic.com. For information on the RTJ Golf Trail, visit www.rtgolf.com. Also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

15-foot putt for par to keep her alive, while Lincicome two-putted from approximately 40 feet. The third playoff hole was the determining factor in the tournament.

Pak stuffed her approach shot 10 feet from the pin, while Lincicome hit it over the top of the flag into the back bunker. She blasted out to twenty feet and drained the par putt to put the pressure back on Pak. Pak, who entered the playoff with a 5-0 career playoff record, calmly executed her putt and made birdie to win the championship. She was showered with champagne from Rolex Rankings No. 1 Jiyai Shin, Chella Choi and Amy Yang.

1st playoff hole: Pak — par; Lincicome — par; Pettersen — par

2nd playoff hole: Pak — par; Lincicome — par; Pettersen — bogey

3rd playoff hole: Pak — birdie; Lincicome — par

THREE-TIME WINNER Brittany Lincicome had a lot of support here in Mobile this week. Her niece and nephew, Taylor, 8, and Austin, 10, kept her company during the rain delay "(We) played some UNO and Go Fish with my niece and nephew, which is always fun," Lincicome said. Their first golf tournament, Austin and Taylor walked all three rounds and the three playoff holes with Lincicome.

PETTERSEN KEEPS KNOCKING ON THE DOOR. Norway's Suzann Pettersen claimed her third second place finish of the year this week. She had an opportunity to become the new Rolex Rankings No.1 with a victory. Pettersen, who missed her approach shot well to the left of the green on the second playoff hole, failed to get up-and-down to advance to the third playoff hole.

NAVISTAR LPGA CLASSIC PRESENTED BY MONACO RV »

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Capitol Hill » The Senator » Prattville, Alabama
FINAL-ROUND NOTES October 10, 2010

Katherine Hull, -19, Rolex Rankings No. 22

Brittany Lincicome, -18, Rolex Rankings No. 20

Cristie Kerr, -17, Rolex Rankings No. 3

Lindsey Wright, -16, Rolex Rankings No. 46

KATHERINE HULL WON the Navistar LPGA Classic Presented By Monaco RV on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, Capitol Hill, Senator Course in Prattville, Ala., Sunday. With a birdie on the 71st hole, Hull got to 19-under to pull one shot ahead of third-round leader Cristie Kerr (72) and Brittany Lincicome (66). A long two-putt par on the 72nd sealed the deal. Hull will cash a \$195,000 first-place check for the win, her second on the LPGA (2008 CN Canadian Women's Open.) Hull's 19-under finish broke the tournament record previously held by Lorena Ochoa.

"It's a little overwhelming, actually," Hull said of her post-victory mindset. "It probably won't hit me until later. You just get so focused on executing and just finishing that you don't think about anything else. I'm definitely on a high right now, and probably won't come down for a while."

WALK TALL: Hull got a little help from above this week, via a unique Bible verse that stood out to her beforehand: Proverbs 2: 6-11. "It talks about, 'He holds victory in store for the upright,'" she said. "I was like, that's kind of an unusual verse that just stuck in my head. I guess call it a premonition, but I'm pretty happy with the way it went. Thanks, God."

IN VERN WE TRUST: The birdie on the par-5 17th Sunday was the go-ahead stroke for Hull, but walking up to the green, she said she was kicking herself because her approach wasn't as good as she would have liked. "My caddy

Vern said to me, 'Would you just make the putt? That's what you do best. Just roll it in.' So he snapped me out of it."

NO LONGER A BRIDESMAID: Hull's been playing well this year but, until today, hadn't been able to put four rounds together and pull out a win. She had three second-place finishes in Australia early in the year and then again in the Ricoh Women's British Open. "I'm just happy to finish one up instead of one back," she laughed. "That's happened a lot this year."

BOGEY-FREE IS THE WAY TO BE: Hull made just one bogey all week, the 17th hole on Thursday. She then went bogey-free over her last 55 holes. "Keeps it simple for sure," she said. "Stress free golf."

OUT OF MAGIC: Cristie Kerr held the third-round lead by three shots but "didn't have any magic today," she said. Kerr started the round with eight straight pars before bogeying the ninth. At 18, she had a chance to force a playoff with a birdie but pushed her iron right and couldn't hole the birdie chip. "Today things didn't go my way," she said. "If I had played half as well as I played the first three days, it would have been no contest. Even par is like shooting over par on this golf course." Kerr missed her par putt on 18 to fall back to 17-under and finish in a tie for third.

LEADER OF THE PACK: When Kerr bogeyed the ninth and dropped out of a share of the lead, it was the first time she hadn't held at least a share of the lead since the 15th hole Thursday.

A FRIEND INDEED: Hull may have gotten some help from above Sunday; Lincicome got some from her own group. Creamer, who shot a final-round 71 to finish 11-under (T16) and was never a factor, gave her playing partner words of encouragement when she checked the leaderboards and saw what was happening. "It helped a lot," Lincicome said. "I mean, she's been there before. She knew what I was going through. I'm not sure if she knew that I didn't know where I was standing, but she obviously did. She was a great friend out there today."



Above, from left: Katherine Hull won the Navistar LPGA Classic at -19, a new course record; Brittany Lincicome consistently played well, landing in second for both tournaments.

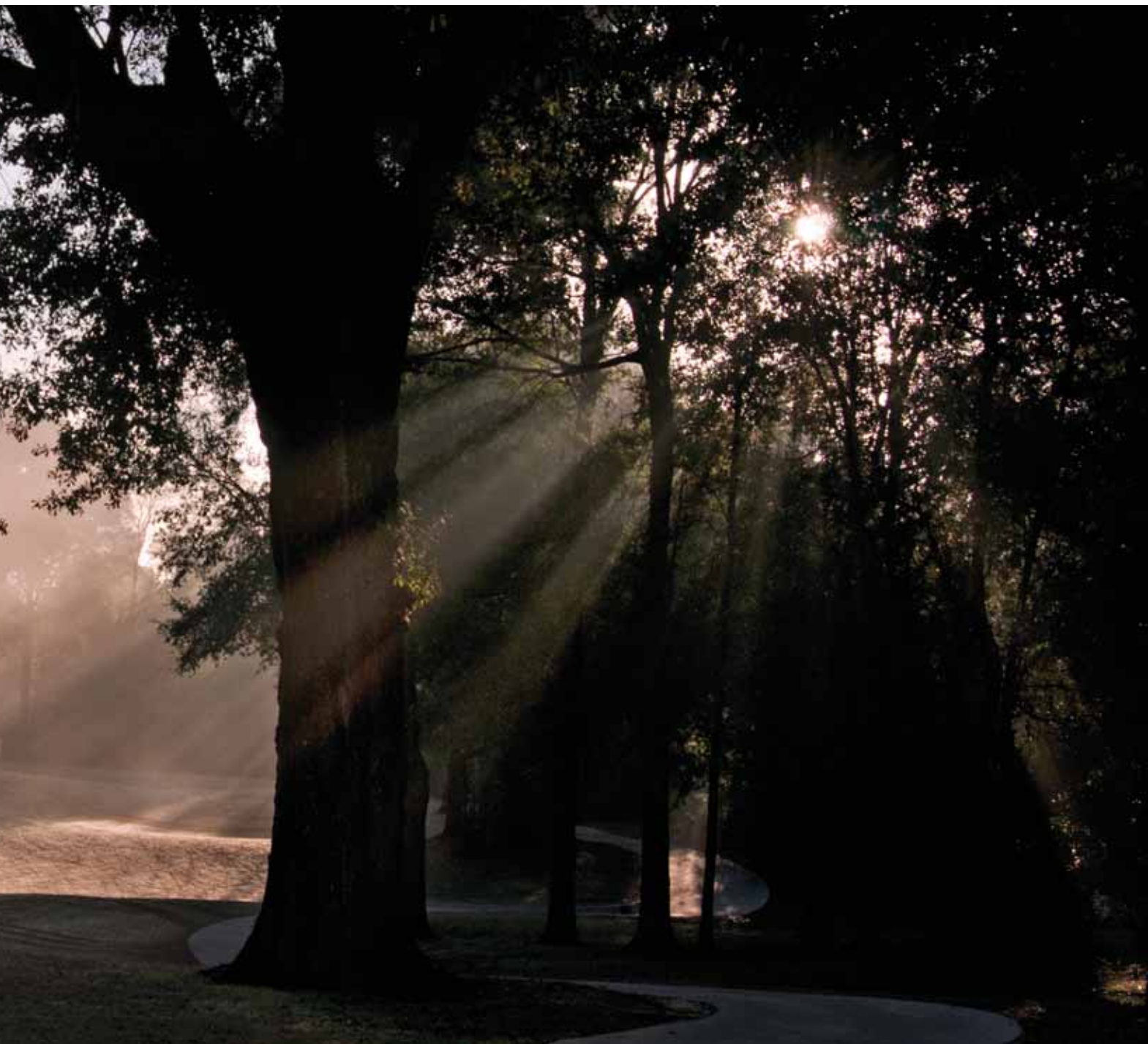


IT HAS BECOME POPULAR IN RECENT YEARS TO REFER TO ALABAMA'S GULF COAST AS THE STATE'S "GOLF COAST." THE REFERENCE IS BOTH DESCRIPTIVE AND ACCURATE. THE ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF TRAIL HAS PLAYED A HUGE ROLE IN MAKING IT SO.

BY TOMMY HICKS

And the Trail isn't resting on its already impressive laurels when it comes to its presence along the Gulf Coast. Instead, it is continuing to enhance that presence by improving its facilities and amenities and providing not only world-class golf experiences, but adding to the overall quality of life available to residents and guests of the area.

"Honestly, all I can say is there is no more important part of the Trail than there is down south," John Cannon, president of Sunbelt Golf Corporation, which oversees the operation of the RTJ Golf Trail, said. "I hesitate to say there's something more important, that Lakewood and Magnolia Grove are more important than other parts, but we see the tremendous potential they possess."



Above: The renovation of the Falls course at Magnolia Grove creates a more versatile landscape.

Cannon said the City of Mobile and its surrounding areas has become an important area for the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the entity having invested heavily in the area, including the building downtown on Water Street of the RSA Tower. “We look at what we can do to bring people back to the Gulf Coast,” Cannon said, “after what it has suffered through from the two or three hurricanes the area has endured to (the) BP (oil spill). . . Everyone understands we believe in the future of the Gulf Coast and we believe in the City of Mobile and its surrounding areas itself. We think we can have a tremendous impact in furthering the success of all business in that area, and that’s what the Trail is meant to do.

“The Trail, yes, is a string of golf courses, but the key to the Trail’s success is economic development and tourism. That’s what we’re here to do. We do it through golf, we do it through hotels and the other assets of the RSA. But if we’re not bringing new people to the Gulf Coast, we’re not doing our job and that requires constant attention to our facilities and constant upgrading. If you’ve stayed at one of the RSA hotels, you know we’re not standing still. We’re giving people a world-class experience and a reason to tell their friends what we’re about and what they’ve experienced. The facilities are great, the Southern hospitality is great. I don’t know another organization in our industry ...»

"...Everyone understands WE BELIEVE IN THE FUTURE OF THE GULF COAST and WE BELIEVE IN THE CITY OF MOBILE and its surrounding areas itself. WE THINK WE CAN HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT IN FURTHERING THE SUCCESS OF ALL BUSINESS IN THAT AREA, and that's what THE TRAIL IS MEANT TO DO."

**John Cannon,
president of SunBelt
Golf Corporation**



Above: Lakewood Golf Club
now offers public access.

that is so committed to the overall health of the local economy in each of the areas that we're in."

Magnolia Grove, Mobile's stop on the RTJ Golf Trail, features two 18-hole courses, The Crossings and The Falls, as well as a par-3 Short course that has been rated the best in the country. The Crossings course, home of the Bell Micro LPGA Classic, was renovated from 2008-09, and The Falls Course recently reopened after a 10-month renovation. Both courses underwent extensive changes and improvements in a variety of areas. The practice range and putting green were also improved.

"Basically, it's part of the long-term capitol plan of the Trail," Cannon said. "Being as we built virtually everything at the original seven sites at one time, they are aging at the same time as well. What we want is to ensure that in the long term we have the best possible facilities for all of our golfers. The quality that we have committed to from the very beginning will always be there...We've also modified some of the original designs. They're what I would call more flexible designs. In other words, the average player can find more enjoyment playing them on a regular basis and by use of hole location, green speed and firmness, and rough, we can for specific events and/or customers, make the golf course as demanding as it always has been. That ensures the longevity of the facilities as a business and the on-going guest satisfaction."

That same approach was put in place at Lakewood Golf Club, with the Azalea and Magnolia courses redesigned and improved in recent years. Recently, more accessibility to Lakewood for non-Grand Hotel guests and non-members has added to the appeal of the RTJ Golf Trail member facility. "For the long-term health of Lakewood and the club itself, what we try to do is partition the two 18-hole golf courses," Cannon said. "On a daily basis one of those courses is for members only; we have a very significant and active membership there. We will also ensure that every day, with two courses open, we have one course for the members every day and they have access to the other golf courses, but we'll book hotel guests there and public play there (on the other course) that helps us bring more people to the Gulf Coast.

"We can use Magnolia Grove and Lakewood together now as a golf destination. We've already

seen some incremental increase into the area since we've opened up the ability for them to play 18 holes at Lakewood. They could play Dogwood today and Azalea tomorrow, that's why we flip them daily, so it opens up both courses to the public."


That game plan provides a string of quality golf opportunities, challenges and experiences at the RTJ Golf Trail sites in the Mobile area, not only for visitors to the area but for local golfers too. The two courses offer four 18-hole courses and a demanding 18-hole par-3 course—a week's worth of play.

"You're always proud of what you're trying to accomplish, in good times and bad," Cannon said. "What we know, with the RSA's commitment, we're always going to be proud of our facilities, and when we make mistakes they're honest and they're mistakes we make always with our guests in mind. We try to give them more than they believe they're paying for and we think that's what makes us one of the world's great golf destinations."

"We've already seen increased traffic to Magnolia Grove and to the hotels downtown to play the facility. A lot of that can be credited to word of mouth. I played golf (recently) with (LPGA star) Suzann Pettersen. She said, 'I love what you've done with the golf course at Magnolia Grove, it's fantastic, it's so much better.' Those are the people who have so much influence. We're keeping those people in mind as well as the 18-handicapper in what we're doing. That is not going to change...Every conversation helps us. We're getting through. What I read in the newspaper is that consumer confidence is getting better and with that, the golf business will get better. We're still a profitable enterprise. Golf is a completely discretionary purchase for everybody who plays the game. When we make it something where people really want to spend their discretionary income on, and they do, we're going to be successful."

If nothing else, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail—whether along the "Golf Coast" or any of its other locations—has been a huge success, from the beginning and today. ■

Tommy Hicks is a sportswriter for the Mobile Press-Register.

A romantic couple is walking away from the viewer along a sandy beach. The woman is on the left, wearing a pink top and light-colored pants, carrying a brown hat. The man is on the right, wearing a light blue shirt and khaki shorts, with his arm around her. They are walking through the shallow surf as gentle waves wash onto the shore. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow across the entire scene.

Recapture the feeling that brought
you together in the first place.

The feelings you had when you started a family never really left. Life just occasionally got in the way. Discover them again with a trip to the beautiful, sugar-white beaches of Gulf Shores and Orange Beach.

www.gulfshores.com



www.rtgolf.com



BON APPÉTIT, Y'ALL.

RTJ GOLF TRAIL RESORTS OFFER LUXURY DINING & LODGING OPTIONS AT A REAL VALUE.

After a challenging round of golf, splurge a little and enjoy the luxurious Resort Collection on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. From Kobe beef and fine wines to luxury suites and imported cigars, these hotels are just as varied as the Trail itself.

The Resort Collection features five Four Diamond Hotels, two Four Diamond restaurants and some of the finest spas in North America. With four full-service Marriott Hotels, four Renaissance Hotels and five spas all along the Trail, the good life just got better and more affordable.

While burgers and club sandwiches at the RTJ Clubhouses are always a big hit, at night sample fresh local seafood, meals prepared with area produce or steaks

the size of Rhode Island. We have it all. From historic hotels along Mobile Bay to rooms with balconies overlooking the Tennessee River, the hardest decision may be where to start. Readers from national travel, golf and meetings publications have raved about the Golf Trail and its Resorts. Come find out for yourself. Information on each of the eight hotels is below and also can be found online at www.pchresorts.com. Each hotel also has Facebook and Twitter sites. ...»

MOBILE BAY REGION

Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa

Point Clear, Alabama www.marriottgrand.com

www.facebook.com/thegrandhotel

www.twitter.com/marriottgrand

Since 1847, The Grand has maintained a gracious tradition of Southern hospitality on historic Mobile Bay. The Grand Hotel consistently receives the AAA-Four Diamond Award and is a family-friendly historical hotel that is 164 years young. In 2010, the Grand Hotel received national honors from *Travel + Leisure*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Successful Meetings* and *Meetings South*. A schedule of activities and special weekends is particularly attractive to families. Groups appreciate the superlative meeting facilities. With 405 luxurious guest rooms and having some of Marriott's best spas, golf courses and pools, the Grand Hotel is now grander than ever. A \$50 million renovation on The Grand was completed in 2003 and again in 2006. The Dogwood and Azalea golf courses were renovated in 2005. Once private, these golf courses are now open to Grand Hotel guests and the general public.

The resort has 37,000 square feet of meeting space that was completely renovated in 2006. All guest rooms were updated in 2010. The Grand's 550 acres feature giant live oak trees, multiple beaches and lush landscaping. A military salute and cannon firing takes place each day at 4:00 p.m. and is followed by afternoon tea in the hotel lobby. In addition to world-class golf and the 20,000-square-foot spa, the resort has a variety of activities including eight rubico tennis courts, a croquet lawn, horseshoes, bikes, kayaks, sailboats and other watercraft for the guests' enjoyment.

For those wanting to own a piece of the Grand Hotel, Colony at the Grand offers upscale condominium options overlooking Mobile Bay and the Azalea golf course. For more on the Colony, visit www.colonyatthegrand.com.

The Battle House Renaissance Mobile Hotel & Spa

Mobile, Alabama www.rsabattlehouse.com

www.facebook.com/battlehouse

www.twitter.com/battlehouse

Originally built in 1852 and closed in the mid-1970's, the Battle House in Mobile has been restored to all its original grandeur. The Battle House reopened in May 2007 and has been named as one of the "Top 500 Hotels in the World by *Travel + Leisure* in 2009. Both the Battle House and its Trellis Room restaurant have received Four Diamond ratings from AAA. The hotel has also been named one of *National Geographic Traveler's* "Top Places to Stay" in North America and was named a favorite by *Coastal Living*.

The 238 gracious guest rooms, new spa and historic lobby, restaurant and ballrooms make Battle House the perfect urban retreat for business and leisure guests with an affinity for the finer things in life. The hotel has 35,000 square feet of meeting space and is connected to RSA Battle House Tower. On New Year's Eve, come witness MoonPie Over Mobile in a one-of-a-kind celebration.

Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel

Mobile, Alabama www.renaissanceriverview.com

www.facebook.com/riverviewplaza

www.twitter.com/riverviewplaza

A prime downtown location with a covered walkway to the Mobile Convention Center makes the Renaissance Riverview Plaza a favorite for business guests. Leisure travelers will enjoy easy access to the Alabama Cruise Terminal, the home port for the Carnival Cruise Line's Holiday ship. Renaissance Riverview Plaza also

Guests at all three Mobile Bay resorts have easy access to great golf at RTJ's Magnolia Grove. Creeks, marshlands and lakes add to the challenge of Mobile's Magnolia Grove. The Falls, Crossings and Short courses have all received national recognition from various golf publications. With Avnet's LPGA full-field tournament in May at Magnolia Grove, the three Mobile Bay hotels are a great place to stay for the event.

is a short walk from the city's Carnival Museum, the Museum of Mobile and the Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center, which also features blockbuster exhibitions.

Having just undergone a \$50 million renovation, the 374 plush guest rooms are as popular as the hotel's spectacular views of Mobile Bay. The Harbor Room restaurant features exceptional seafood and steaks. Riverview Plaza features 32,000 square feet of versatile meeting, banquet and exhibit space. Mobile is the home of the country's original Mardi Gras, and parades pass in front of the Renaissance Riverview Plaza during Carnival season.

CENTRAL ALABAMA AND MONTGOMERY REGION

Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center

Montgomery, Alabama www.renaissancemontgomery.com

www.facebook.com/renaissancemontgomeryhotel

www.twitter.com/renaissancemgm

The Renaissance Montgomery Hotel & Spa at the Convention Center opened in February 2008 and brings Alabama's capital city a great cultural, culinary and corporate hub. The hotel features 346 luxurious rooms and suites, several restaurants and bars, a 1,800-seat performing arts center and a European-style spa. Located near the Alabama River, Renaissance Montgomery is a part of the city's downtown revitalization. For concerts, plays and general entertainment, the hotel's 1,800-seat performing arts centre is quickly becoming the city's social hot spot.

Renaissance Montgomery includes a newly renovated and expanded convention center. The hotel complex has more than 100,000 square feet of meeting space and features some of the latest technology available for meetings. The Renaissance Montgomery is approximately 10 minutes from the Capitol Hill site on the RTJ Trail.

Montgomery Marriott Prattville Hotel & Conference Center at Capitol Hill

Prattville, Alabama www.marriottcapitolhill.com

www.facebook.com/marriottcapitolhill

www.twitter.com/marriottcaphill

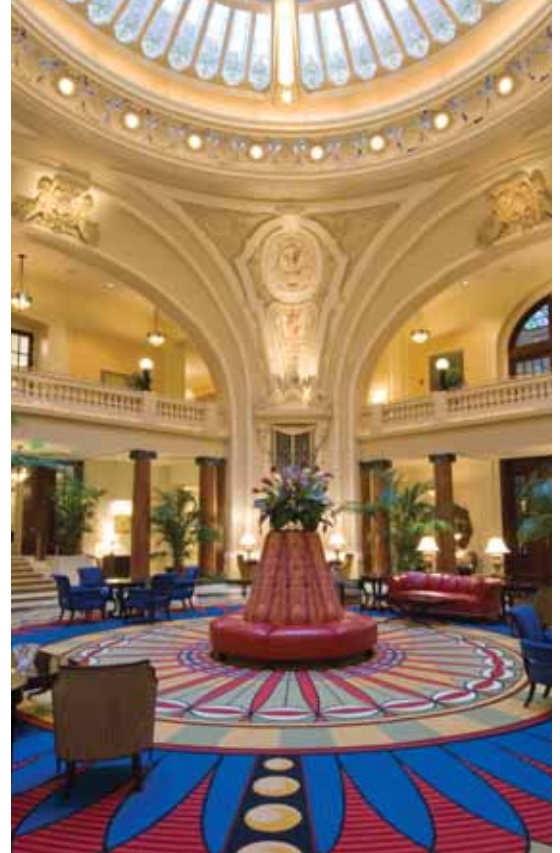
Minutes from downtown Montgomery and near the Bass Pro Shop, the Marriott hotel's 95 guest rooms were completely renovated in 2009. Seventy-four spacious guest rooms are located in the main lodge. Two eight-room luxury villas have living areas for informal gatherings and are ideal for golfing groups.

Also renovated in 2009, the 10,000-square-foot Presidential Cottage features five executive suites, private balconies, a lush garden and a private heliport. All guest rooms at the hotel feature flat screen televisions and high-speed internet access. Executive parlors and suites are available. Luxurious bedding with down comforters and custom duvets were added in 2009. ...»

Previous page:

Cuisine along the Trail includes everything from perfectly seasoned seafood to prime cuts of beef.

Clockwise from left: The expertly trained culinary team along the Trail wows with traditional dishes and innovative accents. The new menu at The House in the Renaissance Montgomery has been a big hit; The historic lobby of the Battle House has been exceeding expectations since 1852; The Ross Bridge burger is the perfect complement to a relaxing round of golf.





Clockwise from left: The spectacular views on the Trail are not complete without an ice-cold beverage to end the day; The 360 Grille at the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is Alabama's only rotating restaurant; The House restaurant at Renaissance Montgomery showcases a variety of steaks from only the freshest cuts of meat.



DINING RECOMMENDATIONS...

To help make your trip planning easier, the executive chefs at the Resort Collection on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail have come up with the following recommendations of must-have meals in their restaurants:

Auburn Marriott Opelika

12 oz. Angus New York Strip

Grand Hotel Marriott

Lump Crab Omelet

Marriott Shoals

Kobe Ribeye with

Wasabi Butter

Montgomery Marriott Prattville

Grilled Pork Chop Bienville with

Andouille Sausage Dressing

Renaissance Montgomery

Shrimp and Oakview Farms

Stone Ground Grits

Renaissance Riverview Plaza

Seared Ahi Tuna with

Crispy Wontons

Renaissance Ross Bridge

Brock's Short Rib Lasagna

The Battle House

Seared Diver Scallops with

White Truffle Oil

The hotel was the first to be built directly on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses and overlooks the 54 holes of championship golf at Capitol Hill. Named the #2 site for public golf in the country by *Golf World* readers, this RTJ site hosts the LPGA Navistar Classic tournament in September.

The Marriott's Oak Tavern offers dining with an extraordinary view overlooking the 17th Fairway of the Senator Course. Indoor and outdoor dining options are available for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The hotel features 15,000 square feet of event space, including 13 venues, a new ballroom and pre-function area and a covered terrace.

For recreation the hotel features an outdoor pool and whirlpool, a fitness center plus tennis and volleyball courts.

Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National

Opelika, Alabama www.marriottgrandnational.com

www.facebook.com/marriottgrandnational

www.twitter.com/GrandNatl_Hotel

Named the #1 location for public golf in the country by *Golf World* readers, it is easy to see why *U.S. News & World Report* named Auburn/Opelika one of the top places to retire for golf lovers. This location offers both a great hotel and an upscale residential option.

Situated just 10 minutes from Auburn University, in the quaint historic town of Opelika, the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National offers the finest, most luxurious accommodations in the area. This nationally-renowned retreat is the region's premier golf destination and lakeside resort with 54 holes of Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail golf. The majority of guest rooms in this luxury hotel and resort overlook Grand National's golf course and Lake Saugahatchee. The hotel has 114 guest rooms and 15 luxury suites.

Renovated in 2006, this hotel has 15,000 square feet of technology-equipped event space, a business center and a 96-seat amphitheater. The hotel was named among the "Best of the Best" by *ConventionSouth* readers and the hotel's chef was named "Alabama's Top Chef" by the Alabama Hospitality Association.

For golfers wanting to move to the area, National Village offers upscale homes and cottages adjacent to Grand National. From a primary residence to second homes, National Village has great options and golf waiting for you. For more on this upscale Trail residential option, visit www.nationalvillage.com.

NORTH ALABAMA AND BIRMINGHAM REGION

Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa

Birmingham, Alabama www.rossbridgeresort.com

www.facebook.com/rossbridgeresort

www.twitter.com/rossbridgehotel

Renaissance Ross Bridge Golf Resort and Spa is designed to provide a unique environment of stylish comfort and sophistication. Ross Bridge was named "One of the Top 500 Hotels in the World" by *Travel + Leisure* magazine in 2008. This four diamond resort has 259 guest rooms, with balconies overlooking the third longest golf course in the world at 8,191 yards from the tips. The resort has 11 spacious suites, for an extra level of comfort and indulgence. Between Ross Bridge and nearby Oxmoor Valley, golfers have access to 54 holes of golf at this luxury resort.

Ross Bridge is the host hotel for the Porsche Sport Driving School and offers luxurious pampering in a 12,000-square-foot, European spa. Caviar facials, a couple's treatment room and hot stone massages are signature treatments in the spa. *BestSpasUSA* has named Ross Bridge as one of their top spas.

The resort has multiple restaurants, including fine dining with a Mediterranean influence in Brock's. The Clubhouse was named one of *Golf Digest's* "Favorite 19th Holes" in 2008. For meetings or special events, Ross Bridge has 20,000 square feet of function space ranging from a large ballroom to a smaller, distinctive boardroom. The resort consistently remains among the top Renaissance hotels in the world for guest satisfaction and overall style.

Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa

Florence, Alabama www.marriottshoals.com

www.facebook.com/marriottshoals

www.twitter.com/marriottshoals

Overlooking the Tennessee River and historic Wilson Dam in Florence, Alabama, the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa continues to be the Marriott leader for exceptional golf, hotel rooms, pools and overall guest satisfaction. The 200 guest rooms, including seven suites, have private balconies and riverfront views. The resort features Alabama's only revolving restaurant and more than 30,000 square feet of versatile meeting space. The hotel's spa is one of Marriott's top 10 internationally for guest satisfaction.

The Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa is a short distance from two Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail courses — Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster. The Fighting Joe was named among the top 10 new courses by *Golf Magazine* and *Travel + Leisure Golf*. The Schoolmaster course opened in 2005 and approaches 8,000 yards. In addition to great golf, the Shoals area is internationally known for two things: bass fishing and a rich musical heritage.

Swamper's Bar and Grill celebrates the area's rich musical heritage. Little Richard, Rolling Stones, Cher and others recorded in the Shoals and the area still has many songwriters and recording studios. For upscale dining, the revolving 360 tower restaurant offers remarkable cuisine and amazing views of the Tennessee River. The 6,000-square-foot European-style spa and salon helps make the Marriott Shoals Hotel & Spa the premier resort in the Tennessee River Valley. ■



ALABAMA *Art*

THE EIGHT ALABAMA HOTELS OWNED BY THE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS OF ALABAMA ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AND SERVICE, AS WELL AS A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF ORIGINAL ART FROM ALABAMA ARTISTS.

The "Alabama Art" collection features works curated by Nall, a native of Alabama who also exhibits in Europe, as well as artists from around the state. The works hanging in the hotels range from primitive, outsider art pieces to intricate mosaics and oils to photography.

Nall has long supported an art renaissance in Alabama in an effort to explore the state's artistic excellence. He has been awarded the University of Alabama Image Award and the Governor's Most Distinguished Artist Award. He spearheaded the relationship between Montgomery, Alabama, and Pietrasanta, Italy, where his bronze work, "Peace Frame" is installed as the gateway to the city. Prince Albert II of Monaco said "Nall has been such a fine cultural ambassador for his native land with the Alabama Art Exhibit." His book, "Alabama Art," won an award as "Best Art Book" in the Southeastern United States. ■

For more information on Nall and Alabama Art, visit www.nallart.com. Many of the pieces on display are available for purchase by contacting nall@nallart.com or by writing PO Box 1343, Fairhope, Alabama 36533.



ARTISTS WITH WORKS HANGING IN RSA'S ALABAMA HOTELS AND RESORTS INCLUDE:

Judith Amanda, Jennifer Antoline, Margaret Barber, Ann Mottershead Betak, Sloane Bibb, Sue Blackshear, Julia Bradshaw, Neal Brantley, Kyle Braund, Edward Brummal, Nan Cunningham, Mike Handley, Marty Hoerr, J J Gaudel, Sybil Gibson, Sarita Gish, Jim Gunter, Anton Haardt, Amber Hall, Baba Hendricks, Carrie Johnson, Robert Harold Johnston III, Christy Rhodes Kirk, Charlie Lucas, Betty Sue Matthews, Jim Morris, Maya Morland, Christopher Moses, Haardt Moses, Donna Pickens, Tigjo Price, Barbara Reed, Natalyn Havenick Rose, Conrad & Janice Ross, Jayne Rushin, Michael Simpson, David M. Spears, George Taylor, Les Thompson, Langley Tolbert, Melissa Tubbs, Mary Catherine Watson and Dave Willmart.

Xander Booker, Chip Cooper, Russell Goodloe, Nancy Goodman, Erin Fitzhugh Gregory, Stacey Howell, Robert Johnston, Ryan Clifford Keller, Mary Riser Kennedy, Bruce Larsen, Charlie Lucas, Michael Mastro, Betty Sue Matthews, Herbert "Mannie" Pair, Heather Pettersen, Joan White-Spunner, Lynda Smith Touart, Bradley Robertson, Stephen Savage, Kate Seawell, Susan Starr, Steve Strickland, Les Thompson, Annie Tolliver, Susan Downing White, Devlin Wilson and Robert Zimmerman.

Artists Paul Looney, Ann Morland, Kate Seawell, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, and Yvonne Wells also have works on consignment in the Renaissance Montgomery. Deceased artists in permanent collection include: Steve Skidmore, Jimmy Lee Sudduth, Mose T, and Flemming Tyler Wilson.

Opposite: Alabama Art Nall. **This page, from left:** Turtles, Birds and Snakes Mose T; Gables Neal Brantley; New York City Skyline Jimmy Lee Sudduth; Elephant Bruce Larsen.





blazing a golf trail in **SWEET HOME ALABAMA**

BY GRANT FRASER

It was Albert Einstein who said, “If at first an idea does not seem absurd, then there is no hope for it”. That’s what people said when it was first proposed that Alabama enter the golf business using funds from the state’s employee pension fund. It was Dr. David G. Bronner, the CEO of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, who saw something that no one else did. The plan called for a \$100 million investment to create the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, a network of championship golf courses along the state’s main highways. Despite harsh criticism, work began in the late 1980’s and the largest golf course construction project in U.S. history was underway. Seven sites were originally selected and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail was born.

Unbeknownst to his detractors, Bronner had a much grander plan than to simply build a bunch of golf courses to give retired Alabamians something to do. His vision was much grander than that. Bronner’s mission was to grow the state’s struggling tourism industry, recruit business and industry and attract retirees to the area. What was once a widely criticized idea has transpired into a business model revered by every state, province and country interested in becoming a world-class golf destination.

Today, the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is now a carefully designed consortium of 468 holes of championship golf (26 golf courses in all) at 11 locations throughout Alabama. But Bronner’s vision included more than just golf. His strategy was to create stay and play destinations

in every major urban area throughout Alabama by bundling golf and accommodation together. You know, roll out of bed, have breakfast then head over to the first tee for your 9:15 am tee time. To complete each Trail experience, a partnership with Marriott and Renaissance Hotels was established to provide legitimacy to the stay and play concept.

Bronner’s mission was simple. Provide a five-star golf experience at an affordable price for all. Fast forward twenty years and mission accomplished. Over the past decade, Alabama’s tourism industry has increased from \$2.5 billion to \$9.3 billion. Pretty good return on investment. No one is questioning Bronner’s decision anymore. In fact, they now refer to him as Saint David throughout the state (just kidding).

Green fees average \$50, peaking at \$64 during the high season—excluding cart. To play comparable courses in Arizona or Florida in the winter would cost you 3 to 4 times as much. Recently, *Frequent Flyer* magazine named the Trail “One of the Top Ten Trips in the World”, and in a *Golf Digest* survey, the Trail was ranked #1 in the world for value and #8 for quality.

So where should you start your Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail experience? One of the most appealing attributes of the Trail is that you can start from anywhere in the state. From Mobile in the south to Huntsville in the north, it really doesn’t matter, although there are more Trail courses around the Birmingham area than anywhere else. ...»

Left: Hole #10 at Hampton Cove in Hunstville.

Each of the 11 stops is within a two-hour drive of the next closest Trail course and within 15 minutes of a major interstate. If you're directionally challenged, don't despair as there are plenty of road signs to help you get from one location to another.

I started my trip on the Trail in Auburn/Opelika. I visited in early November, a perfect time of year, as temperatures were around 59 degrees and the autumn colours were ablaze. Yes, autumn colours in Alabama. Who knew? I often joke with some of my American friends about how "provincial" they are in their thinking. Most don't know much about Canada other than we're good at hockey. I have to confess, I had no idea Alabama had mountains or trees that turned colour in the fall.

are unlike anything you've likely seen before. In fact, the term "Short Course" is somewhat of a misleading moniker as most of the holes range from 150 to 250 yards from the back tees.

Traveling northeast, my next Trail stop took me to Huntsville, home of Hampton Cove, one of the seven original Robert Trent Jones sites. I played the 7,262-yard, eclectic Highlands Course, a course that featured a good variety of parkland, water and links-style holes. Unlike most of the other Trail courses I experienced, the two golf courses at Hampton Cove are easy to walk—something I appreciate more the older I get. Hampton Cove's other championship layout is



Above: Grand National in Auburn/Opelika has won countless national awards.

I was certainly surprised when I saw landscapes that were more indicative of Ontario than Florida, which is what I expected. Alabama is geographically diverse due to the Appalachian mountain range that extends from the northeast to the centre regions of the state. The end result is the ideal topography for an assortment of outstanding golf courses.

Featuring 54 holes, the Grand National in Auburn/Opelika is where it all began almost 20 years ago. This was the first Trail course to open and was praised by iconic golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. as the "greatest site for a golf course I have ever seen."

As with all the multiple course Trail locations, it doesn't matter which golf course you play. At Grand National you have your choice between the 7,194-yard Lake Course or the 7,311-yard Links Course. In 1993, the Links Course was named by *Golf Digest* as the 2nd best new public course in America, the Lake Course 4th best. Built on 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee, 32 of the 54 holes wind alongside its pristine shores.

The "Short Course" at Grand National is one of the seven par-3 layouts you'll find on the Trail. True to Robert Trent Jones Sr. form, the short courses he designed

the 7,667 River Course. Built on former soybean fields in the flood plain of the Flint River, the golf course has the unique distinction of being the only course on the Trail without a sand bunker.

From Huntsville, I headed west for 65 miles along Interstate 72, to the area of the state referred to as "The Shoals", a region that encompasses the cities of Muscle Shoals, Florence, Sheffield and Tusculumbia. Although somewhat removed, it is here that you'll find two of the best golf courses on the Trail. The 8,092-yard (yes, you read that correctly) Fighting Joe Course was named after General Joseph Wheeler (1836–1906) who served in the Confederate and U.S. armies and later was elected to the Alabama state legislature. Opened in 2004, The Fighting Joe Course was the first Trail course to exceed 8,000 yards. As the name implies, this course comes out swinging and never lets up. It can be really, really long if you lose your senses and decide to play from the back tees. Fortunately the fairways and greens are generous so you'll be able to see where you're going. The challenge, however, is getting there.

The second course at The Shoals is equally impressive. Named the "Schoolmaster" after Woodrow Wilson, the 28th President of the United States, and former

President of Princeton University, this 7,971-yard track is a more traditional, tree-lined golf course nestled along the shores of the Tennessee River. Those in the know suggest the Schoolmaster is the more difficult of the two, but with both courses measuring approximately 8,000 yards it's like comparing a Sudoku puzzle to a Rubik's Cube. They're both tough. Fortunately both courses feature 5 sets of tees to choose from so you'll be able to play from a distance best suited to your game. Regardless of which course you play (try to play both), you'll be treated to a memorable golf experience.

Course are renowned for their precipitous elevation changes and tight, tree-lined fairways. Like Grand National in Auburn, Oxmoor Valley was one of the Trail's pioneers setting the stage for the other Trail destinations that would soon follow. To this day, Oxmoor Valley remains one of the most popular stops on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail rotation.

Perhaps the Trail's most redeeming quality is that there isn't a weak link in its golf chain. After playing several courses I'm sure one will emerge as your favourite. If you were to ask 10 different people what their favourite course on the Trail is you would undoubtedly get 10 different answers. No one destination



Perhaps the Trail's most redeeming quality is that **THERE ISN'T A WEAK LINK IN ITS GOLF CHAIN.** After playing several courses I'm sure one will emerge as your favourite. **IF YOU WERE TO ASK 10 DIFFERENT PEOPLE WHAT THEIR FAVOURITE COURSE ON THE TRAIL IS YOU WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY GET 10 DIFFERENT ANSWERS...** They're all great.

From the Shoals area, I headed south to Birmingham to experience the newest addition to the Trail, Ross Bridge. At 8,191 yards, Ross Bridge is the longest course on the Trail and the 3rd longest golf course in the world. I'm not really sure why anyone would build a golf course this length where the back tees are in a different time zone. Other tee decks do exist making Ross Bridge one of the most popular venues on the Trail. Indicative of a parkland style course, ten holes extend along the shores of two lakes adjoined by a spectacular waterfall that drops 80 feet between the 9th and 18th greens. A gristmill has been thoughtfully added to the waterfall reflecting the history of this old mining site.

Complimenting the golf course is the 259-room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Inspired by the famous Banff Springs Hotel, Ross Bridge has taken the "stay and play" experience to new heights. Without question, this 4 ½ Diamond property is the most luxurious of all the Trail accommodations.

Also in the Birmingham area is Oxmoor Valley, a 54-hole facility that was built on land previously mined by U.S. Steel. Nestled in the forests and valleys of the Appalachians, the 7,055-yard Ridge Course and 7,194-yard Valley

stands apart from the others. They're all great. I particularly liked knowing I could play a links course one day and a parkland course the next without having to drive 100 miles to get there. Here lies what makes Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail special.

Native Alabama resident and golf writer, Hershell Caldwell probably described the Trail best. "It is the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail that provides an opportunity for the rest of the country to see and experience the "old" South with "new" eyes." A fitting description given this state, more than any other, has endured many social and economic hardships over the years. With the recent crowning of the Alabama Crimson Tide as national college football champions and running back Mark Ingram being the first Tide player to win the Heisman Trophy, not many things rival 'bama football in this state of 4.5 million people. But thanks to Dr. David G. Bronner and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail golf in Alabama may rank a close second, and deservedly so. ■

Grant Fraser is a writer for Golf the World.



fishing and **FOOTBALL**

The chants of “War Eagle” can be heard in the distance as residents of National Village leave their upscale golf community and drive to Auburn University just in time for kickoff. 2010 was a phenomenal year for the Auburn Tigers, for Heisman winner Cam Newton and for sales at National Village. All of this just one year after Alabama won the national championship and Mark Ingram brought home the Heisman. Football in Alabama is as great as its golf and now you can enjoy both in upscale residential options. »



Left: In a sea of orange and blue, football fans gather at Jordan-Hare Stadium to cheer on the Auburn Tigers.

Above: Residents enjoy a relaxing day on the water with various types of fishing along the Trail.

Located in Opelika adjacent to the Grand National location of the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, National Village offers both estate and golf cottages plus easy access to Auburn and its cultural and sporting activities.

If you are more of a coastal person, head south to Fairhope and the shores of Mobile Bay. Colony at the Grand is located next to the historic Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa and its new tennis and pool complex. Fish in the community's giant lake or head out into the Gulf of Mexico for deep sea fishing. Once home, you will be steps from the Azalea and Dogwood golf courses at the Lakewood Golf Club. Shop in Fairhope's fresh markets and pick up some fine wines then enjoy your fresh catch as the sun sets over Mobile Bay.

The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail offers two residential options for those looking to play the Trail all year long in their primary home or looking to invest in an upscale second residence. Each offers very different experiences.

Auburn/Opelika and Fairhope/Point Clear have been praised as some of the top retirement locations in the country. Each area offer great cultural options, unique charm and access to multiple RTJ Golf courses. Your new home is waiting for you on Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

The Colony at the Grand offers a variety of luxury residential options and the amenities to spoil you. The first phase of The Colony at the Grand Hotel is upscale condominiums called Bayview.

Overlooking Sweetwater Lake on the hotel's historic grounds, Bayview offers a breathtaking panorama at every floor from oak-draped parks and a freshwater lake to the magnificent 36 holes of the Azalea and Dogwood courses of the Lakewood Golf Club. Amenity-rich living at the Colony Club is centered around an aquatics center, fitness and wellness studio, tennis academy, dining and social areas and a business center. These amenities, together with the Lakewood Golf Club and the Grand Hotel's Spa, offer the residents of the Colony at the Grand a true resort-living experience.

Exploring the Colony at the Grand doesn't end at the front gate of this private community. The quality of life at Point Clear is legendary. Explore the boutiques, galleries and restaurants of Fairhope or spend your day along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. The Fairhope/Point Clear area has gained notice in the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the Top 10 places in the U.S. to retire. Perhaps it is time you take a look. Luxury condominium residences from the \$300's.



Above: The Colony at The Grand is only steps away from the state-of-the-art pool and lazy river.

Right: The homes at National Village harbor a sense of comfort and community.

NATIONAL VILLAGE

AUBURN/OPELIKA, ALABAMA nationalvillage.com

Can't get enough golf...or fishing or hiking through woodland nature trails? Then check out National Village, a planned 700-acre resort community adjoining the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Grand National near Auburn and Opelika, Alabama. Plans call for a series of villages surrounded by open, green spaces, including the Grand National golf facility and Lake Saugahatchee.

The community skirts the 1500-acre, 54-hole golf facility. The late golf legend Robert Trent Jones Sr., who designed the Trail, called the Grand National facility the single greatest site for golf in the world.

For those who want more than golf, there's a pristine 600-acre lake, miles of walking trails and the on-site Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National. The hotel contains 129 rooms, indoor and outdoor pools, a state-of-the-art meeting amphitheater and can officially claim the best chef in Alabama, according to the recent honor from the Alabama Hospitality Association. All of these amenities are available to residents at National Village.

The Auburn/Opelika area was named of the "Top 10 Places to Retire for Golf" by *US News & World Report*.

Readers of *Golf World* named Opelika the #1 site for public golf in the country. *Golf Digest* named the RTJ Trail the top value for golf in the country and number eight for quality.

The first 53 homes in the community are Craftsman style cottages, with prices beginning in the \$400,000 range. New golf cottages start in the \$170's and offer a great value for golfers and others wanting to live in an upscale community. A variety of floor plans ranging from just over 1,200 to nearly 4,000 square feet in size are currently available. From primary residences to second homes, National Village offers great options of luxury living on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail. ■

COLONY AT THE GRAND

FAIRHOPE/POINT CLEAR, ALABAMA colonyatthegrand.com

Some traditions only get better. Eating Sunday Brunch with your grandparents. Strolling under giant oak trees dripping in Spanish moss. Learning to play croquet on the Grand Lawn with your parents. Watching the sunset over Mobile Bay with the ones you love. Enjoying afternoon tea at 4:00 by the fireplace. Making new friends at the pool or rejuvenating yourself in the Grand Hotel's Spa.

Since opening in 1847, The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club and Spa has been rich with many traditions. For generations Grand Hotel guests have found it difficult to leave. Now they can own a part the Grand's new tradition.



The Auburn/Opelika area was named one of the **“TOP 10 PLACES TO RETIRE FOR GOLF”** by *US News & World Report*. Readers of *Golf World* named Opelika the **#1 SITE FOR PUBLIC GOLF IN THE COUNTRY**. *Golf Digest* named the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail the **TOP VALUE FOR GOLF IN THE COUNTRY AND NUMBER EIGHT FOR QUALITY**.



GENTLEMEN, THIS
IS VODKA.

A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO THE TRAIL »

Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail is a collection of 468 holes of championship golf on 11 sites around Alabama. Most are near an interstate or federal highway and directions are easily marked by green highway signs.

The eight Resort Collection hotels on the Trail all fly the Marriott or Renaissance flags and are top in their class for luxury, golf and spa experiences.

The Wall Street Journal said the Trail **"MAY BE THE BIGGEST BARGAIN IN THE COUNTRY"** and The New York Times called the Trail **"SOME OF THE BEST PUBLIC GOLF ON EARTH."**

Please use the map and the mileage chart on this page for guidance or contact any of our Reservations Specialists at 800.949.4444 for more information or for tee times and reservations.

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MILEAGE BETWEEN TRAIL SITES

	CAPITOL HILL	CAMBRIAN RIDGE	GRAND NATIONAL	HAMPTON COVE	HIGHLAND OAKS	MAGNOLIA GROVE	LAKEWOOD G.C.	OXMOOR VALLEY	ROSS BRIDGE	SILVER LAKES	SHOALS
CAPITOL HILL	—	57	78	193	114	183	185	86	85	155	212
CAMBRIAN RIDGE	57	—	114	245	99	137	139	138	137	207	264
GRAND NATIONAL	78	114	—	189	131	240	242	121	120	112	242
HAMPTON COVE	193	245	189	—	310	372	374	122	123	81	77
HIGHLAND OAKS	114	99	131	310	—	201	217	201	200	233	328
MAGNOLIA GROVE	183	137	240	372	201	—	39	264	263	333	364
LAKEWOOD G.C.	185	139	242	374	217	39	—	284	283	353	384
OXMOOR VALLEY	86	138	121	122	201	264	284	—	2	88	140
ROSS BRIDGE	85	137	120	123	200	263	283	2	—	89	141
SILVER LAKES	155	207	112	81	233	333	353	88	89	—	135
SHOALS	212	264	242	77	328	364	384	140	141	135	—



THE SHOALS »

The Fighting Joe course at The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at The Shoals opened August 2004 and was the first Trail course to break 8,000, measuring some 8,092 yards from the black tees.

It's long, really long, and this links style course is simply good, straight-forward golf. You can see where you're going. The question is...can you get there?

Some say the spectacular 17th hole is the signature hole on the course, but the 18th green overlooking Wilson Lake on the Tennessee River will distract you with its beauty, if not its treachery.

Travel + Leisure Golf has named Fighting Joe one of the top new courses in 2004 for good reason. Long-hitters here will experience a test of champions; but from the correct tee box, all players will enjoy world-class golf.

The second course, The Schoolmaster (named for President Woodrow Wilson who was responsible for getting Wilson Dam built on the River and who was known as The Schoolmaster of Politics) opened in the Summer of 2005.

This tree lined course is more traditional golf with every hole in keeping with the natural topography along the Tennessee River. It is wooded, rolling and spectacular.

First reports indicate The Schoolmaster may be a tougher course than Fighting Joe, but only time will tell. One thing's for sure, it's a shot maker's golf course with narrower fairways, tree lined greens, and still a length of nearly 8,000 yards!

It's hard to beat the beauty that Hole #18 holds on the high bluffs over the river, but the waterfall on Hole #2 sure comes close. Make sure you've done your homework well, for The Schoolmaster will certainly test all of your skills. ■

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FIGHTING JOE COURSE

Black 8,092/78.7/138; Purple 7,126/74.0/135; Orange 6,628/71.5/130; White 6,154/69.3/123; Teal 4,978/69.0/122; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	611	466	478	426	236	497	607	477	236
PURPLE	567	413	416	360	193	468	537	406	190
ORANGE	540	388	396	326	175	432	524	375	157
WHITE	512	370	373	313	160	408	467	332	145
TEAL	394	302	320	279	137	325	408	283	101
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	489	413	716	223	476	466	483	592	200
PURPLE	460	371	622	184	417	397	437	537	151
ORANGE	428	345	581	163	403	352	423	483	137
WHITE	412	332	498	153	369	326	385	473	126
TEAL	256	310	441	136	244	260	304	377	101
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	3

SCHOOLMASTER COURSE

Black 7,971/78.0/143; Purple 7,294/74.7/134; Orange 6,778/72.2/128; White 6,160/69.1/124; Teal 5,249/70.3/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	453	238	477	632	472	265	459	509	681
PURPLE	421	196	450	568	452	231	400	445	645
ORANGE	382	178	421	549	409	208	366	406	604
WHITE	337	135	393	504	373	178	339	369	562
TEAL	311	131	337	478	315	158	268	325	488
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	5

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	226	589	618	455	417	447	197	443	393
PURPLE	202	559	568	424	390	414	157	409	363
ORANGE	168	521	527	402	368	395	146	390	338
WHITE	147	489	501	353	333	347	135	347	318
TEAL	122	381	479	307	265	267	101	283	233
PAR	3	5	5	4	4	4	3	4	4

HIGHLANDS COURSE

Purple 7,428/76.0/132; Orange 6,806/69.9/123; White 6,070/69.9/123;
Ladies' Teal 4,951; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	409	403	550	215	412	435	453	238	526
ORANGE	394	372	518	183	378	406	424	190	511
WHITE	372	330	452	165	334	381	387	158	444
TEAL	309	303	377	94	273	336	318	94	361
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	3	5

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	461	206	435	415	414	539	259	621	437
ORANGE	434	177	347	391	382	520	211	570	398
WHITE	371	154	308	336	342	470	161	541	364
TEAL	257	108	265	319	298	390	101	475	304
PAR	4	3	4	4	4	5	3	5	4

RIVER COURSE

Purple 7,668/77.8/136; Orange 6,764/72.8/134; White 6,111/69.7/128;
Ladies' Teal 5,278/70.4/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	556	207	467	447	476	214	433	627	438
ORANGE	505	186	404	375	388	196	393	566	394
WHITE	463	165	347	342	350	158	360	540	348
TEAL	431	135	267	299	285	135	305	499	318
PAR	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	5	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	572	437	454	421	208	600	187	451	473
ORANGE	535	398	418	382	186	519	176	378	365
WHITE	486	353	379	314	165	494	163	350	334
TEAL	428	293	340	276	112	426	132	314	283
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,635; Orange 3,007; White 2,480; Teal 1,861; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	192	184	222	149	201	257	190	215	199
ORANGE	161	167	189	110	182	184	175	173	153
WHITE	124	152	154	95	149	145	144	145	128
TEAL	83	109	72	78	83	109	114	126	111
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	177	193	184	222	205	247	159	232	207
ORANGE	161	152	174	185	170	184	143	168	176
WHITE	115	131	144	156	143	137	115	151	152
TEAL	98	83	124	105	115	95	85	128	143
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



HAMPTON COVE »

The Northern gateway to the Trail is Hampton Cove in Huntsville, a 54-hole facility with terrain that drastically changes from one side of the property to the other.

Renovated in 2008, the Highlands Course has been restored back to its original Scottish-Links style design. Long waving grasses frame beautiful rolling terrain creating beautiful golf holes. The finishing holes on the Highlands Course are among the most scenic and challenging on the Trail. One of the most recognizable landmarks on the Trail is the old mule barn beside the fifth hole. Completely opposite in design is the River Course, the only Robert Trent Jones layout without a single bunker. The River Course is laid out on former soybean fields in the flood plain of the Flint River. The River Course is a throwback to the way courses were built long ago, where dirt was merely pushed up to create the greens and tees, leaving all else, including massive oak trees, as is. With water on 16 of the 18 holes, the River Course will challenge your shot making ability.

The Short Course at Hampton Cove is very open and links-like, with water in play on 11 holes and a large double green accommodating the 10th and 17th greens. The Short Course is a great venue for golfers of all skill levels. Alternating tees allow golfers to hit every club in their bag! ■

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SILVER LAKES »

Named by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as one of the nation's Great Value courses in the public category, Silver Lakes is set on rolling terrain at the edge of Talladega National Forest between Anniston and Gadsden. Silver Lakes features three championship nines plus a nine-hole Short Course. This facility is anchored by a number of strong par fours that play to pedestal greens perched 30 to 40 feet above fairway level.

The Heartbreaker nine is dubbed by many as the most challenging nine on the Trail from the championship tees. Consider the 450-yard par-4 ninth with water rippling down the entire left side of the hole. The beauty of Silver Lakes is the multiple tee selections (up to 12 on some holes). The Backbreaker nine is a photographer's dream, boasting beautiful views of the Appalachian foothills from its elevated tees. The par-5 seventh, a 623-yard thriller (466 from the novice tees), brings water into play not once, but twice. The Mindbreaker, although a tad easier than the other two, demands shotmaking at its finest. The Short Course at Silver Lakes is arguably the most demanding collection of one-shotters on the Trail. There's water in play on seven of the holes, including a 12-foot cascade beside the sixth green. ■

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ANNISTON/GADSDEN 36 HOLES

MINDBREAKER COURSE

Purple 3,579/37.5/76; Orange 3,216/35.7/60; White 2,981/34.5/66;

Ladies' Teal 2,317/33.5/58; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	546	177	408	207	556	434	406	454	391
ORANGE	505	157	361	189	515	388	362	387	351
WHITE	471	132	345	169	492	376	320	358	324
TEAL	344	96	296	123	376	279	280	317	291
PAR	5	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4

HEARTBREAKER COURSE

Purple 3,827/39.1/72; Orange 3,301/36.3/69; White 2,966/34.4/67;

Ladies' Teal 2,553/34.8/64; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	568	479	455	431	215	452	550	229	449
ORANGE	532	397	402	404	167	394	506	146	353
WHITE	481	375	367	357	136	344	475	118	315
TEAL	431	280	329	312	109	301	454	67	260
PAR	5	4	4	4	3	4	5	3	4

BACKBREAKER COURSE

Purple 3,846/38.6/79; Orange 3,385/36.2/70; White 2,927/34.0/62;

Ladies' Teal 2,369/34.0/60; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	455	206	455	496	231	401	623	445	534
ORANGE	406	159	399	400	174	371	578	399	499
WHITE	346	132	350	343	120	346	466	342	482
TEAL	293	92	294	292	94	212	369	287	431
PAR	4	3	4	4	3	4	5	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,946; Orange 1,450; White 1,276; Teal 798; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	232	192	225	236	199	254	186	211	211
ORANGE	137	155	166	171	160	167	170	169	155
WHITE	123	133	146	156	130	138	147	150	153
TEAL	90	81	100	94	99	94	94	85	61
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

RIDGE COURSE

Purple 7,055/73.5/140; Orange 6,527/71.6/136; White 6,148/70.1/133;
Teal 4,974/69.1/122; Ladies' Teal 70.2/130; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	449	528	539	389	179	447	379	176	421
ORANGE	404	513	520	382	146	405	346	159	384
WHITE	364	500	506	356	123	389	317	129	393
TEAL	297	458	451	286	85	291	232	77	227
PAR	4	5	5	4	3	4	4	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	414	446	483	189	389	390	205	440	592
ORANGE	379	393	465	162	348	366	172	411	572
WHITE	361	373	440	137	333	353	165	396	543
TEAL	279	305	410	92	251	321	145	304	463
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	3	4	5

VALLEY COURSE

Purple 7,149/74.6/130; Orange 6,590/71.3/127; White 6,027/68.7/118;
Teal 4,924/69.4/122; Ladies' Teal 68.3/120; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	440	204	435	188	415	400	564	433	561
ORANGE	415	174	391	171	375	369	509	396	541
WHITE	393	153	363	145	327	334	475	358	513
TEAL	367	100	285	109	265	290	401	268	428
PAR	4	3	4	3	4	4	5	4	5

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	475	363	506	207	552	407	178	400	441
ORANGE	420	322	504	177	527	381	165	359	393
WHITE	393	279	490	147	502	335	120	337	363
TEAL	284	229	461	107	441	295	81	302	210
PAR	4	4	5	3	5	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,360; Orange 3,037; White 2,556; Teal 1,871; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	170	224	203	208	135	155	163	204	161
ORANGE	152	206	183	185	126	147	150	188	130
WHITE	122	195	138	142	113	139	131	170	119
TEAL	79	141	103	108	98	93	103	144	103
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	195	215	182	137	253	211	192	174	178
ORANGE	179	191	154	135	225	192	160	164	170
WHITE	166	158	144	127	141	153	137	129	132
TEAL	69	114	95	124	123	91	124	83	76
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



OXMOOR VALLEY »

This 54-hole facility was built on former mining land owned by U.S. Steel. Sculpted from the peaks and valleys of the Appalachians, the courses offer scenic forests, numerous creeks and challenging elevation changes. The Ridge Course, with its roller coaster fairways, heavy tree cover, and precipitous 150-foot elevation changes, is incredibly photogenic. As a reminder of the site's former use, the green at the par-five 3rd is buttressed by a shelf of exposed shale rock.

The Valley Course is dotted with picturesque lakes, beautiful rolling fairways, and stretches two miles downrange along a slender valley. The 18th hole, a 441-yard par-4, nicknamed "The Assassin," rises to a dramatic finish at the signature clubhouse just above the green. The Short Course at Oxmoor Valley is a delightful collection of 18 pure one-shotters which offer severe elevation changes and almost every hole plays downhill. The Short Course is listed by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as one of the nation's Great Value courses in the public category. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT OXMOOR VALLEY

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HOOVER 18 HOLES

ROSS BRIDGE COURSE

Black 8,191/78.5/135; Purple 7,446/74.9/127; Orange 6,783/71.3/118;
White 6,200/68.7/117; Teal 5,312/70.2/123; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BLACK	620	467	470	226	469	207	619	502	518
PURPLE	573	430	445	202	417	194	561	447	410
ORANGE	543	395	422	155	380	185	519	408	377
WHITE	511	322	392	146	337	174	484	376	341
TEAL	463	278	366	140	303	110	458	311	285
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
BLACK	477	208	454	698	239	458	571	501	487
PURPLE	454	184	429	614	219	415	538	467	447
ORANGE	417	167	408	540	176	366	511	411	403
WHITE	387	133	357	519	163	341	477	382	358
TEAL	273	120	326	403	130	293	410	334	309
PAR	4	3	4	5	3	4	5	4	4

ROSS BRIDGE »

Alabama welcomes the newest addition to the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Ross Bridge. Beautifully carved into the rolling terrain of Shannon Valley, these 18 holes will challenge even the best golfers. Named one of *Zagat's* top new courses, Ross Bridge has hosted the Regions Charity Classic, a PGA Champions Tour event.

The course meanders through indigenous landscape and around the 259 room Renaissance Birmingham Ross Bridge Golf Resort & Spa. Ross Bridge is the third longest course in the world but offers multiple tees for golfers of all levels. Symbolic of an old parkland style course, ten holes play along the banks of two significant lakes connected by a spectacular waterfall dropping 80 feet between the ninth and eighteenth greens. A gristmill added to the waterfall reflects the history of this old mining site. The beauty and challenge of each hole leads many to believe there is not one signature hole but possibly eighteen.

Like many other Trail courses, the par-three holes are incredible. Considerable elevation changes combine with water or other natural obstructions to get your attention. Large putting surfaces provide many tempting pin locations that will test golfers' approach shots.

Number seventeen, a long par four, plays to a small, well guarded green. Water frames the right side of this down-sloping hole. In the background is a picturesque view of the ninth and eighteenth holes with the waterfall tumbling between. The seventh hole offers a par five that traverses a ridge high above the rest of the course. The ninth will leave you speechless as it is time to decide how daring you are off the tee. A split fairway allows for either a short challenging route along the water's edge or opt for safer play leaving a longer, more difficult approach to the green. Regardless if it is a par three, four or five, Ross Bridge stands ready for your game! ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT ROSS BRIDGE

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FOR MAPS & MORE DETAILED INFORMATION

on all Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail sites, go to rtjgolf.com. Click on Reservations, then on Driving Directions and Information.



LAKE COURSE

Purple 7,149/74.3/136; Orange 6,488/71.3/126; White 5,948/68.7/117;
Teal 4,910/68.7/117; Ladies' White 74.4/133; Ladies' Teal 68.0/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	380	428	197	527	423	442	557	213	411
ORANGE	364	381	178	480	396	381	521	182	379
WHITE	319	361	168	447	385	352	477	148	339
TEAL	285	308	92	399	308	295	418	103	276
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	434	445	522	427	545	230	334	205	429
ORANGE	397	387	493	388	510	182	297	174	398
WHITE	353	356	459	361	488	160	285	143	357
TEAL	276	239	391	343	384	93	247	126	327
PAR	4	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	4

LINKS COURSE

Purple 7,311/75.1/135; Orange 6,574/72.3/129; White 6,015/69.6/119;
Teal 4,843/69.6/113; Ladies' White 75.5/139; Ladies' Teal 70.4/120; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	423	556	206	425	456	544	472	345	204
ORANGE	396	509	182	409	375	499	446	319	170
WHITE	366	470	165	384	342	460	409	299	133
TEAL	313	385	110	262	275	412	318	234	119
PAR	4	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	363	260	575	418	467	516	181	429	471
ORANGE	326	195	500	378	422	467	152	402	427
WHITE	289	151	493	343	372	451	118	368	402
TEAL	242	69	426	272	338	362	93	312	301
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	5	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,328; Orange 2,798; White 2,476; Teal 1,715; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	188	201	171	173	187	173	152	216	250
ORANGE	170	166	151	152	147	137	119	193	234
WHITE	148	148	128	131	124	137	119	174	211
TEAL	93	106	83	92	102	97	89	119	71
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	161	187	231	185	138	204	202	155	154
ORANGE	131	172	179	151	108	184	173	110	121
WHITE	108	139	179	98	104	156	156	110	106
TEAL	85	95	119	58	72	143	108	77	106
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



GRAND NATIONAL »

The Links Course was named by *Golf Digest* as the 2nd best new public course in America in 1993. The Lake Course was named by *Golf Digest* as the 4th best new public course in America in 1993. And both courses were in the top 10 of *Golf Digest's* list of *America's Top 50 Affordable Courses*. The three courses at Grand National are also listed among the nation's 40 Super Value courses by *Golf Digest's Places to Play*. Grand National, by all reports, was the single greatest site for a golf complex Robert Trent Jones, Sr. had ever seen. Built on 600-acre Lake Saughatchee, 32 of the 54 holes drape along its filigreed shores.

The cornerstone of the complex is the Links Course, which is without a single weakness. The par-four 18th is without a doubt the strongest finishing hole on the Trail. The drive must carry a corner of the lake, while the approach is played to a shallow pedestal green shored up by boulders. With 12 holes hugging the shore, Grand National's Lake Course is every bit as scenic as the Links. Not only is the quartet of par-threes on the Lake Course as good as any in the nation, the 230-yard, island green 15th may be the single prettiest hole on the Trail. The Short Course, while overshadowed by the two main tracts, is a thing of beauty, with more than half the holes touching the lake. This 18-hole course of one-shotters might be the finest anywhere in the country.

National Village, a golfing community on the Trail, is adjacent to these course and the Marriott Hotel. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT GRAND NATIONAL

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CAPITOL HILL »

Named the number 2 public golf site in the country by *Golf World* readers, Capitol Hill in Prattville continues to get praises from golfers and golf writers alike. *Golf* magazine called The Judge Course one of the 10 public courses in America worthy of hosting the U.S. Open and the *Zagat* Survey of America's Top Golf Courses ranked it among the top 50 courses in America. The Senator was named among the Top 10 New Courses in the nation by *Golf* magazine and is showcased in October during the Navistar LPGA Classic presented by MaxxForce. Located in Prattville, approximately 13 miles north of Alabama's state capitol, Capitol Hill features three 18-hole championship courses. With more than 1500 acres of golf and nature, the pure magnitude of this facility is amazing and allows each course to be drastically different from the others.

The Senator, a Scottish-Links style course with beautifully manicured bent grass greens, holds over 160 pot-hole bunkers and mounds 20 to 40 feet in height, cleverly hiding the cart path or any other hole from the fairway. The secluded settings of each hole will make it feel as if you are the only foursome on the course.

The Legislator, a more traditional course, plays in and out of pine trees and along the bluff. The view riding down the "Sky Bridge" for six holes laid out in a native cypress swamp will impress as you are led back up the bluff to finish the course at the spectacular clubhouse.

The Judge offers stunning vistas alongside the 200 acre glistening backwaters of the Alabama River. The first tee lies 200 feet above the fairway overlooking the Alabama River and the Montgomery skyline. With 14 holes adjoining the water and a stunning bulkhead island green, the Judge is described as simply magnificent.

Capitol Hill also features an innovative circular driving range 400 yards in diameter. ■

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LEGISLATOR COURSE

Purple 7,323/74.1/126; Orange 6,646/70.8/124; White 6,232/68.7/117;
Teal 5,414/71.5/119; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	631	404	177	481	603	198	425	455	420
ORANGE	554	389	163	421	536	174	401	411	380
WHITE	541	366	136	391	509	151	361	393	366
TEAL	435	324	115	325	428	124	339	353	311
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	412	207	387	544	476	407	181	585	424
ORANGE	369	170	367	519	434	364	160	552	365
WHITE	350	148	348	505	407	343	148	512	330
TEAL	337	105	302	451	343	313	124	464	295
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	5	4

SENATOR COURSE

Purple 7,726/76.6/131; Orange 6,968/72.4/125; White 5,921/67.6/111;
Teal 5,122/67.6/115; Ladies' White 69.6/121, Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	427	230	419	426	681	420	232	558	437
ORANGE	395	206	385	367	606	385	167	530	402
WHITE	365	165	346	339	511	326	129	453	376
TEAL	281	89	290	282	460	301	109	393	290
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	4	3	5	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	616	435	467	203	459	449	222	559	457
ORANGE	543	400	434	169	426	417	181	515	408
WHITE	528	634	391	159	358	334	147	475	366
TEAL	460	317	326	116	333	307	84	376	308
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	4	3	5	4

JUDGE COURSE

Purple 7,794/77.8/144; Orange 6,670/72.6/132; White 6,198/69.3/129;
Teal 4,955/68.3/121; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	415	459	187	617	423	229	675	466	424
ORANGE	400	371	155	514	386	190	586	420	387
WHITE	379	350	129	486	335	148	575	395	362
TEAL	296	297	104	402	273	128	351	344	271
PAR	4	4	3	5	4	3	5	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	711	478	231	424	469	552	256	430	348
ORANGE	563	394	179	373	424	500	223	384	321
WHITE	543	340	160	313	377	478	170	364	293
TEAL	421	268	98	278	352	413	126	286	247
PAR	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4

SHERLING COURSE

Purple 3,681/37.4/67; Orange 3,423/36.3/65; White 3,028/34.9/62;
Teal 2,435/33.7/60; Ladies' Teal 34.3/57; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	568	209	428	184	428	420	437	636	371
ORANGE	531	167	398	169	399	397	412	601	349
WHITE	490	146	365	141	367	324	354	514	327
TEAL	417	91	280	79	224	283	322	460	279
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4

CANYON COURSE

Purple 3,746/38.0/74; Orange 3,490/36.9/72; White 3,058/35.8/70;
Teal 2,422/34.4/68; Ladies' Teal 33.9/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	501	275	585	444	383	418	522	258	360
ORANGE	477	244	553	421	353	374	499	237	332
WHITE	432	163	478	366	330	366	464	152	307
TEAL	371	130	409	297	272	259	336	108	240
PAR	4	3	5	4	4	4	5	3	4

LOBLOLLY COURSE

Purple 3,551/36.6/66; Orange 3,295/35.6/63; White 3,078/34.7/61;
Teal 2,350/33.4/58; Ladies' Teal 33.5/54; Par 35

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	497	421	418	182	418	222	503	447	443
ORANGE	469	397	390	155	413	196	434	423	418
WHITE	457	346	334	136	367	138	369	366	365
TEAL	342	322	249	75	301	112	344	321	284
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,640; Orange 1,415; White 1,116; Teal 745; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	156	187	211	147	173	159	231	185	191
ORANGE	136	155	187	123	142	141	210	162	159
WHITE	118	121	151	79	109	123	123	151	141
TEAL	81	71	94	66	76	75	76	93	113
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



CAMBRIAN RIDGE »

Known by avid golfers as one of the most beautiful and most challenging stops on the Trail, Cambrian Ridge in Greenville lies just 40 miles from Montgomery. It is well worth the ride for any golfer looking for 36 holes of jaw-dropping golf.

Cambrian Ridge was also immortalized on the 2003 Microsoft Golf Game and was the subject of an extensive ad campaign in *Golf Magazine* promoting the game.

This year on Memorial Day weekend, May 28-29, Cambrian Ridge will host the Annual Father/Son Championship, one of the most popular events on the Trail.

The Sherling/Canyon combination was named by *Golf Digest* as the 3rd best new public course in America in 1994 and 13th in their list of America's Top 50 Affordable Courses. This combination was also named by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as one of the nation's 40 Super Value courses. The Loblolly nine, with its gently rolling fairways, cathedral-like pines, and water-fronted greens, exudes a stately, Augusta-like quality. The Canyon nine, carved from former hunting grounds where deer blinds remain nailed to the hard-wood, is a thrilling stretch of target-style golf with hole #1 being a 501-yard par-four that drops 200 feet from tee to fairway.

The Sherling nine may be the best nine on the entire Trail. Drama takes center stage at Sherling's ninth hole which marches straight uphill past a deep ravine strewn with ochre boulders to a lolling tongue of a double green shared with the ninth on the Canyon nine. Above this green is a clubhouse set atop the highest point in the county, its verandah serving up expansive 30-mile views of Southern forest land. The nine-hole Short Course is a marvelous collection of par-three holes laid out beautifully between the ridge and Sherling lake. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT CAMBRIAN RIDGE

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HIGHLAND OAKS »

Located in the southeast corner of Alabama, Highland Oaks offers three nine-hole championship courses. The Highlands/Magnolia combination was named by *Golf Digest* as the 7th best new public course in America in 1994 and 31st in their list of America's Top 50 Affordable Courses. This combination was also named by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as one of the nation's Great Value courses. This 36-hole complex features some of the longest and most classically designed holes on the Trail. Each nine has a different personality. Highlands, the core nine, is relatively open with several lakes in play. The peninsula green at the par-3 sixth has an elusive, beckoning quality.

Marshwood has been made famous (or notorious) by its behemoth par-5 sixth, which stretches to 701 yards from the tips. The 422-yard par-4 ninth, a left to right dogleg, is arguably the best hole at the site and has a tilted green elevated above a swathe of wetlands. The Magnolia nine is well-named: specimen magnolia trees dot the higher ground, which is reached via a 1,000 foot long wooden bridge spanning a marsh filled with lichen-dappled trees. The feature hole is the 416-yard fifth, where a split-level fairway offers an option off the tee. The Short Course, a nine-hole par-3, has demanding bunker placements, three water holes and possibly the best putting Bermuda greens in the South. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT HIGHLAND OAKS

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HIGHLANDS COURSE

Purple 3,892/38.6/70; Orange 3,580/37.1/68; White 3,296/35.8/66;

Teal 2,554/34.3/63; Ladies' Teal 35.0/64; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	493	458	457	256	430	206	561	435	596
ORANGE	442	415	437	225	390	178	523	409	561
WHITE	402	371	414	181	362	169	507	365	525
TEAL	367	253	294	115	327	120	339	305	434
PAR	4	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	5

MARSHWOOD COURSE

Purple 3,812/38.3/68; Orange 3,492/36.8/65; White 3,158/35.3/63;

Teal 2,531/34.0/60; Ladies' Teal 34.5/62; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	411	564	406	205	456	701	448	199	422
ORANGE	370	521	364	178	441	660	421	157	380
WHITE	334	483	327	137	418	616	382	113	348
TEAL	276	406	266	114	351	435	287	94	302
PAR	4	5	4	3	4	5	4	3	4

MAGNOLIA COURSE

Purple 3,699/37.4/65; Orange 3,404/36.1/62; White 3,090/34.7/59;

Teal 2,471/33.3/56; Ladies' Teal 34.0/59; Par 36

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	392	205	577	546	416	480	195	437	451
ORANGE	371	155	545	516	377	441	176	409	414
WHITE	330	110	520	480	352	396	150	373	379
TEAL	252	81	392	413	291	307	111	297	327
PAR	4	3	5	5	4	4	3	4	4

SHORT COURSE

Purple 1,809; Orange 1,539; White 1,229; Teal 874; Par 27

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	199	241	216	172	174	188	232	178	209
ORANGE	164	215	181	149	137	141	197	175	180
WHITE	121	184	133	127	101	113	159	136	155
TEAL	85	108	94	83	73	76	106	113	136
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

CROSSINGS COURSE

Purple 7,212/74.7/134; Orange 6,652/71.6/131; White 6,157/69.2/126;
Ladies' Teal 5,261/69.4/115; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	422	185	385	540	430	528	412	219	406
ORANGE	387	168	347	511	392	500	385	192	381
WHITE	342	135	317	496	378	484	369	163	349
TEAL	275	101	279	478	331	425	314	122	316
PAR	4	3	4	5	4	5	4	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	417	398	421	559	195	423	596	226	450
ORANGE	386	364	392	524	172	400	535	201	415
WHITE	374	334	371	508	157	354	476	168	382
TEAL	348	273	285	430	99	282	425	134	344
PAR	4	4	4	5	3	4	5	3	4

FALLS COURSE

Purple 7,158/74.6/142; Orange 6,674/71.4/135; White 6,119/69.5/126;
Teal 5,049/68.1/124; Ladies' Teal 70.4/124; Par 71

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	448	195	430	407	582	190	446	417	420
ORANGE	406	179	413	367	522	173	410	393	386
WHITE	370	152	380	345	506	143	390	372	349
TEAL	345	111	308	335	415	91	340	296	279
PAR	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	570	206	423	169	444	445	426	388	552
ORANGE	552	188	405	157	398	407	414	373	531
WHITE	523	161	370	137	369	364	351	325	512
TEAL	393	106	324	117	264	328	295	282	420
PAR	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	5

SHORT COURSE

Purple 3,140; Orange 2,734; White 2,279; Teal 1,829; Par 54

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	174	180	189	215	137	135	190	178	160
ORANGE	160	170	165	189	107	126	152	153	140
WHITE	119	137	124	155	91	100	127	140	126
TEAL	93	102	90	136	71	80	90	110	118
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	173	192	195	205	190	110	192	155	170
ORANGE	151	174	170	175	164	99	161	135	143
WHITE	132	132	142	143	144	85	138	111	133
TEAL	117	108	128	121	103	70	122	80	90
PAR	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3



MAGNOLIA GROVE »

The new Magnolia Grove features two recently renovated golf courses. Each Championship course has undergone extensive renovations over the past two years. Golfers will find “more player friendly” qualities without compromise to the unique integrity of the original design of Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Magnolia Grove, Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's most southern location was recently voted #32 in *Golf World* magazine's Readers' Choice Top 50 Public Courses. The Crossings and Falls courses at Magnolia Grove are also recognized by *Golf Digest's Places to Play* as two of the nation's Great Value Courses, and listed in America's Top 50 Affordable Courses. The topography at Magnolia Grove features creeks, marshland, and lakes; each of the 54 holes carved through indigenous hardwood and pine.

The new Crossings course, host to the Avnet LPGA Classic in April, provides a more open parkland type ambiance. Several water features and crushed oyster shell waste areas were added to provide an exciting new look. All 18 greens have been redesigned and planted with the newly acclaimed ultra-dwarf grass: *MiniVerde*.

The renovated Falls course reopened in October 2010 as the only Par 71 golf course on the Trail. The main tract at Magnolia Grove is characterized by large, liberally contoured *MiniVerde* greens and massive cloverleaf bunkers. Several holes have been entirely redesigned, giving each a brand new look.

The Short Course will undergo renovations starting in late March. Renovations are expected to be complete by mid-August 2011. The Course will feature several newly designed greens and putting surfaces. This course is as good as any collection of one-shotters on a championship course. The Short Course was recognized by *Golf Digest* as the best par-3 course in America. ■

ROBERT TRENT JONES GOLF COURSE AT MAGNOLIA GROVE

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LAKEWOOD GOLF CLUB »

The venerable Dogwood and Azalea courses at The Grand Hotel Marriott Resort, Golf Club & Spa, have seen a lot in their days. They've hosted President Gerald Ford, Dr. Billy Graham and Bob Hope, to name a few of the more famous players.

They've been through renovations and hurricanes and still remain a showcase for great golf in the South. First built in 1947, the Lakewood Golf Club at The Grand Hotel showcases fairways lined with 200-year-old oaks and a dramatic signature hole, the 14th on Azalea. An island green is surrounded by a four-acre lake which makes your approach shot to this par-5 very demanding. Recently redesigned, the new designs lend themselves to superb conditioning year round. With the addition or expansion of ten water features over the span of the 36 holes as well as other interesting architectural features, golfers are faced with decisions at every corner.

The two 18-hole courses are open to Lakewood members and hotel guests and promise a memorable golf experience for both the novice and the experienced golfer alike. Where the Dogwood course might seem a tad bit easier, and the Azalea, more of a challenge, both courses can play to your liking depending on your selection of tees. With five sets of tees per hole, your decision should be rather easy.

Funded by the Retirement Systems of Alabama, the renovation of both courses brings them on par with many of the great resort golf courses in the country. Lakewood Golf Club has several times been named to *Golf* magazine's Best Golf Resorts in America.

Colony at the Grand overlooks the Azalea course at Lakewood. ■

LAKEWOOD GOLF CLUB

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AZALEA COURSE

Purple 7,504/75.3/132; Orange 6,759/71.5/126; White 6,112/68.5/117; Teal 5,431/70.3/116; Red 4,725/67.8/111; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	636	411	420	203	355	572	225	463	470
ORANGE	558	375	400	178	315	520	180	422	385
WHITE	490	345	353	164	288	491	159	379	372
TEAL	455	312	339	145	243	400	148	349	305
RED	410	255	303	77	216	354	120	296	293
PAR	5	4	4	3	4	5	3	4	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	429	514	448	196	545	195	471	475	476
ORANGE	389	500	398	180	531	147	428	423	430
WHITE	347	460	371	158	472	133	342	386	402
TEAL	344	420	354	117	421	107	289	349	334
RED	302	321	338	107	383	66	273	307	304
PAR	4	5	4	3	5	3	4	4	4

DOGWOOD COURSE

Purple 7,063/72.9/128; Orange 6,521/70.4/126; White 5,885/67.5/115; Teal 5,267/70.3/122; Red 4,522/66.5/112; Par 72

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
PURPLE	528	425	214	399	499	426	305	191	398
ORANGE	483	410	174	380	469	415	286	177	361
WHITE	425	375	167	362	442	379	262	155	328
TEAL	385	330	143	344	397	347	236	128	294
RED	335	266	105	239	346	324	221	106	256
PAR	5	4	3	4	5	4	4	3	4

	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
PURPLE	380	445	548	233	463	454	572	209	374
ORANGE	347	415	521	191	428	424	531	176	333
WHITE	316	367	454	170	355	381	479	157	311
TEAL	296	288	390	154	335	361	408	139	292
RED	267	239	334	130	315	312	382	119	226
PAR	4	4	5	3	4	4	5	3	4

ON THIS COURSE, ALABAMA ALWAYS WINS.

Navistar®, a leader in global transportation solutions, is proud to return to Alabama for the 2011 Navistar LPGA Classic. As the title sponsor of this annual event, we're teaming up with the LPGA to help bring positive change to the Alabama River Region community. We're also proud that our MaxxForce® Advanced Diesel engines are made right here in Alabama and continue to help you, your neighbor, or someone on the other side of the world pursue a better tomorrow.

We hope to see you on the Senator Course at Capitol Hill in Prattville on October 6-9, 2011. For more information please visit navistarlpgaclassic.com

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